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GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK



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Welcome

Welcome to Grand Teton National Park, where the majestic Teton Range rises impressively along the western edge of the scenic valley known as Jackson Hole.

Whether you have come to relax and take in the view or to actively explore Grand Teton's many offerings, you will be rewarded with opportunities to get closer to the region's unique natural beauty, wild-life and human history.

The National Park Service (NPS) protects Grand Teton National Park and its natural and cultural resources. The NPS and its primary park concessioners—Grand Teton

Lodge Company, Aramark and the Flagg Ranch Company—work together to offer you the best possible visitor experience.

This American Park Network guide to Grand Teton National Park is provided by the Grand Teton Lodge Company, Aramark and the Flagg Ranch Company to enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of this magnificent national treasure. It is made possible by the support of the sponsors whose messages appear inside. **Remember, the park is a wild environment that deserves your respect and care.**



FUN FACTS

Established: The park was created in 1929 but originally only protected the Teton range and the glacial lakes at its base. In 1950, the park grew to its current size when John D. Rockefeller, Jr. donated land protecting the valley floor.

Land Area: Grand Teton spans just over 310,000 acres, covering the Teton mountain range, glacial lakes and part of the Jackson Hole valley.

Highest Elevation: 13,775 feet.

Plants and Animals: Grand Teton is a part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and is home to a variety of animal life, including eagles, black and grizzly bears and bison. Fish are plentiful in the park's bodies of water, and share the habitat with various amphibians and reptiles.

Popular Activities: The park is a great year-round vacation spot. In the summer, hiking, horseback riding, fishing and boating are popular. Skiing and snowshoeing are excellent activities in winter.

Bicycling: Grand Teton has 16 miles of paved bike paths and almost 300 miles of paved, and unpaved, roads. Bikes are permitted to go wherever cars can.

Hiking: With more than 230 miles of maintained trails, the park is a hiker's delight, with both self-guided and accessible trails.

Camping: In the park there are seven campgrounds, all run by concessioners. Backcountry campsites are located in both higher and lower elevations and amenities differ at each site. All campsites require a reservation. Reserve your spot at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Lodging: Grand Teton Lodge Company, Aramark and Flagg Ranch Company manage most of the lodges in the park. There are five lodge/cabin getaways that offer a variety of amenities, a dude ranch and outdoor guided services. The American Alpine Club operates the Grand Teton Climbers' Ranch, which provides basic, dormitory-style lodgings and cooking areas for climbers. A wide range of lodging is also available outside the park in Jackson and in Teton Village.

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American Park Network® publishes Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder™, OhRanger.com, and Oh, Ranger!® guides—a collection of visitor guides for public lands all across America—and operates Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi in parks and public lands. American Park Network is an official partner of the National Forest Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Hiking Society and the Student Conservation Association.

PRINCIPALS

Mark J. Saferstein - Founder & Editor-in-Chief
Joel S. Saferstein
Alex Frenkel

TECHNOLOGY

Scott Falconer, Erik Guthrie

EDITORIAL / PRODUCTION

Editorial team

Amanda Bly
Emelyn Ehrlich
Sophia Macomber
Wendy Willis

Production Manager

Dennisse Cruz

Design Team

Mario Arce
Michael Cohen
Tatiana Hurtado
Walter Jeronimo
Aziz Zizoune

ADVERTISING SALES & MARKETING

(212) 581-3380

adsales@americanparknetwork.com
Business Development: Randy Burton,
Patrick Keane, Kristi Rummel

American Park Network

41 East 11th Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10003



FOR MORE INFORMATION


Distribution requests

distribution@americanparknetwork.com

Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi™ installation/sponsorship
wifi@americanparknetwork.com

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Cover: Always keep a safe distance from wildlife – 100 yards from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards from moose and other animals.
Credit: Wirestock

What's New!

The Truth About America's Public Lands

"No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong."

– Albert Einstein

I think everyone can agree that Albert was a pretty smart guy. His quote suggests he was also quite open to being proven wrong. Einstein set the bar for both genius and humility by his unyielding embrace of the scientific method.

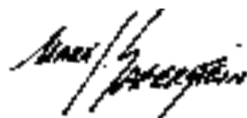
In a world where information is often clouded by personal perspective, it's crucial that we follow Einstein's lead and proceed with care when it comes to facts and truth. Facts, by definition, are verifiable, objective data – things we can observe, measure and ultimately prove. In the absence of new learning, facts are grounded in evidence that remains constant despite opinion or belief. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines truth as *"being in accord with fact or reality."* One person's reality may be quite different from another's. Truth, therefore, requires context. If we're open, it's not that hard to see how different life experiences may provide us with wildly different (and subjective) realities.

America's public lands are steeped in both facts and truth. From the geology of the Grand Canyon to the biodiversity in Yellowstone, facts about these places are backed by years of research and scientific study. But the truth of these lands is more complex. It's about the cultural significance they hold, the stories they tell, and the way they connect us to the past and to each other. The truth includes understanding the important role these lands play – for future generations, to native communities, with regard to preservation, as engines of economic development and so

much more. 'Truth' may lead one person to favor mining while another's truth may dictate conservation above all else.

As with many issues, we won't all agree on how to balance facts and truths. Different perspectives exist on how to best utilize public lands. We need to resist the urge to simply dismiss the opinions of others whose views don't align with our own. Facts provide a foundation for understanding. Truth is shaped by personal and collective values. It's essential that we utilize facts in decision-making while, at the same time, embrace the truth in its full complexity. There's never been a better time to commit to listening, remaining open and considering different experiences and values. Only then can we have constructive dialogue that leads us to common ground. The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service and placed equal weight on conservation as it did recreation, which are often in direct conflict. More than a century later, it's still hard to reconcile such opposing goals... and that's a fact!

Let's approach the stewardship of our public lands with an acknowledgement of facts, a respect for truth and an openness to understanding each other's perspectives, especially when we disagree. Together we can ensure that America's public lands remain a rich resource and a legacy for generations to come!



Founder & Editor-in-Chief

mark@americanparknetwork.com

5 National Parks A Million Memories



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Plan Your Visit

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Grand Teton National Park is open 24 hours, every day, year-round, with most facilities inside its boundaries offering complete visitor services from May to October. Seasonal road closures or severe weather may limit access to some areas. From November through April, some roads, all campgrounds, and most visitor facilities are closed or have reduced hours. For **current information** about the park or park conditions, visit nps.gov/grte or call **(307) 739-3300**. For **lodging reservations** and **activity information**, call the Grand Teton Lodge Company at **(307) 543-3100**, or sister company Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch at **(307) 543-3100**, or visit gtlc.com; or call Signal Mountain Lodge at **(307) 543-2831**, or visit the website at signalmountainlodge.com.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entry is \$35 per vehicle for a seven-day permit. The fee is \$30 for motorcycles and \$20 for a single hiker or bicyclist age 16 or older. A \$70 Annual Park Pass is also available. These passes are for admission to Grand Teton National Park only. Digital passes for select federal public lands, including Grand Teton, are also available at recreation.gov/pass or in the **Recreation.gov app**. Federal recreation passes may be used for entrance to Grand Teton as well as other federal lands (see chart below). A valid driver's license or other form of photo ID may be required for admission.

EVERY KID OUTDOORS

To help engage our next generation of park visitors and advocates, the Every Kid Outdoors initiative was launched in 2015. All kids in the fourth grade

have access to their own Every Kid Outdoors pass through this program at everykidoutdoors.gov. This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle to the park. You can obtain a pass by visiting everykidoutdoors.gov. You must print and present the pass at the park and it is valid for one year from September 1 to August 31.

GETTING TO GRAND TETON

Take U.S. 26-287 from Dubois, Wyoming to enter the park from the east at Moran Entrance Station. This route, also known as the Togwotee Trail, winds its way through small Western towns, parks, vistas with incredible views.

U.S. 26-89-191 arrives at Moose from the south, passing through the town of Jackson and skirting the **National Elk Refuge**. The southern portion of the Moose-Wilson Road from Granite Canyon Entrance to **Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve** is under construction. It is open to through traffic with possible 20-minute delays. Travelers coming from Yellowstone's south entrance drive through the **John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway** into Grand Teton through its northern boundary. This route closes from Yellowstone to Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch from November through April. Call **(307) 739-3614** for road construction updates, **(307) 739-3682** for road conditions inside the park, or **(888) 996-7623** for Wyoming road conditions.

Air: Jackson Hole Airport lies between Moose and Jackson. Airlines that serve the area include American, Delta and United. For information, call **(307) 733-7682** or visit jacksonholeairport.com.

Bus: Alltrans offers bus/shuttle service between Jackson Hole and Salt Lake City. Call them at **(307) 733-3135**, **(800) 443-6133** and **Mountain States Express** at **(800) 652-9510**. Please visit jacksonholealltrans.com for more information. There is bus service from Salt Lake City, Utah to Rexburg, Idaho. For more information, please call Greyhound at **(800) 231-2222** or visit greyhound.com.

Single-package tours of the area are available from Jackson. Call **(307) 733-4325** for more information. Other companies also provide road-based tours. Contact the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at **(307) 733-3316**.

Rental Car: Enterprise, Avis, Dollar, Hertz, Budget, Thrifty and National rental cars are available at Jackson Hole Airport.

Train: There is no direct rail service to Grand Teton National Park. The nearest rail station is in Ogden, Utah. The nearest Greyhound station is in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Visit amtrak.com or greyhound.com.

GETTING AROUND

Public roads pass most of the popular features of Grand Teton National Park. Off-road travel is restricted to foot and horse traffic. Taxi service is available in Jackson for travel around town, in the park or throughout the Jackson Hole area. Jackson also has a public bus service, START. Call **(307) 733-4521** for more information.

WEATHER

Most of the park's visitors come between mid-June and early September, when the day-time temperatures average 70°F to 85°F and blue skies abound.

Evenings still get chilly with nighttime temperatures ranging between 35°F and 45°F.

FEDERAL RECREATION 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.

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80 \$20	General Public Adults age 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, online or via mail order. 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, by mail order and at store.usgs.gov/access-pass . ID and documentation required.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours with the NPS	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.

Autumn has become popular due to cool but sunny days and colorful fall foliage. Trails usually remain snow-free from late June to mid-October.

Winter keeps the park blanketed with snow from mid-November to late April. Snow and ice leave the valleys in May, although highs rarely get above 65°F and lows can drop to 25°F. Rain and snow are possible throughout spring.

VISITOR CENTERS

When you arrive at the park, stop for a brief introduction at one of Grand Teton's visitor or information centers. The **Grand Teton Association (GTA)** manages bookstores at all park visitor centers, providing publications on park resources. Established in 1937, this nonprofit organization publishes maps, books and other materials about the park. In support of Grand Teton, the GTA also prints the park newspaper, provides free brochures and trail guides, helps staff visitor centers, funds student scholarships and much more.

Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, near park headquarters in Moose, Wyoming, is open from May 1 to October 31, but visitor services and ranger-led programs are available all year. Please call **(307) 739-3399** for hours and more information.

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center is located four miles south of Moose on the Moose-Wilson Road. It is open from June 2 through September 21. The Moose-Wilson road construction may result in delays.

Colter Bay Visitor Center is open from May 9 to October 1. To learn more, please call **(307) 739-3594**.

Jenny Lake Visitor Center, eight miles north of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road, is open from May 14 to September 24. Portable toilets are available.

Flag Ranch Information Station is not expected to open.

Backcountry permits can be obtained online in advance, or in park the day before in Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, Colter Bay Visitor Center and the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. The Jenny Lake Boat Launch will be closed for construction for the 2025 season. Jenny Lake Boating, including shuttle boats and scenic cruises, will not be affected. Moose Landing is also under construction for the 2025 season, however the ramp is not expected to close. Boat permits may be purchased on **recreation.gov** or at the visitor centers in Moose or Colter Bay during summer operations.

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Jackson is the closest large town to Grand Teton. Teton Village and Wilson are also within easy driving distance. Please call the **Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at (307) 733-3316** or visit **jacksonholechamber.com** for more information.

VISITOR SERVICES

BANKING

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at Jackson Lake Lodge, Colter Bay Village and Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch during the summer, and in Moose and Jackson year-round.

CAMPING SUPPLIES

Stores in Moose Village, Colter Bay Village, Signal Mountain Lodge, Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch, Jackson Lake Lodge and South Jenny Lake Visitor Area sell camping necessities. Jackson and Teton Village have extensive outdoor supply stores.

EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Dial **911** for emergency help inside the park. For the NPS dispatch, please call **(307) 739-3301**. Grand Teton Medical Clinic is also open during the summer season. No appointment necessary. Please visit **grandtetonmedicalclinic.com** for operational updates. For most medical needs, contact **St. John's Health Urgent Care** at **(307) 739-8999**. The **St. John's Health Emergency Room**, located at 625 East Broadway in Jackson, is designated as an Area Trauma Hospital. Please call **(307) 733-3636** for assistance.

GIFT SHOPS

Gifts, souvenirs, clothing and sundries are available at Jackson Lake Lodge, Jenny Lake Lodge, Colter Bay Village, Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch, Signal Mountain Lodge, the Jenny Lake area and Moose Village, as well as in the gateway communities of Jackson and Teton Village.

GUIDE SERVICES

Exum Mountain Guides and Jackson Hole Mountain Guides are the authorized mountaineering and climbing guide services in Grand Teton National Park. Grand Teton Lodge Company and Signal Mountain Lodge offer guided lake fishing and fly fishing trips on Jackson Lake.

Please call **(307) 543-3100** or visit **gtlc.com** for reservations. For a complete list of services inside and outside the park, call the **Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce** at **(307) 733-3316** or visit **jacksonholechamber.com**.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Religious services are held at several places in the park in the summer and

in the town of Jackson year-round. The **Chapel of Transfiguration** near Moose offers Episcopalian services during summer and the Chapel of the Sacred Heart near Signal Mountain offers Catholic Mass. For times and locations, see the park newspaper or check at visitor centers, lodges or activities desks.

LOST AND FOUND

To recover lost items or report found ones, call **(307) 739-3350** or check at the nearest visitor center or ranger station.

POSTAL SERVICE

U.S. post offices are located at Moose, Moran and Kelly (see centerfold map) inside the park, as well as in the outlying communities of Jackson, Teton Village and Wilson. Both visitor centers take mail with proper postage.

SERVICE STATIONS

Gas and diesel fuel are available at Jackson Lake Lodge, Colter Bay Village, Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch, Signal Mountain Lodge and Dornan's at Moose.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Pick up the *Easy Access* pamphlet at any visitor center to learn about park features that are accessible to people with disabilities (as well as to senior citizens and families with small children). Wheelchair-accessible trails include the lakeshore trails at **Jenny and String lakes, Menor's Ferry Historic Trail at Moose** and the **lakeshore trails at Colter Bay**, along with the **Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve**. All visitor centers and concession facilities can accommodate visitors with disabilities. Grand Teton's TDD number is **(307) 739-3400**.

Park Regulations & Safety

For your safety, and to protect Grand Teton's treasures, please read and follow all NPS regulations. Complete regulations are available at any park visitor center.

PARK REGULATIONS

BACKCOUNTRY USE

Permits are required for overnight backcountry use. Please see the "Walking & Hiking" and "Camping" chapters.

BIKING

You may ride anywhere cars are permitted and on the park's 16 miles of multiuse pathway connecting the town of Jackson with South Jenny Lake. Biking is prohibited on trails and in the backcountry. Please follow the pathway rules: stay on the right; use a bell or whistle when overtaking others; wear protective gear and ride at reasonable speeds. Motorized vehicles are not permitted except for wheelchairs and other mobility-impaired assistance devices. Always obey posted signs including stop and yield signs, particularly where the pathway crosses vehicle access points at wayside turnouts, the Teton Park Road, near Taggart Lake parking area and other roads.

SWIMMING

Swimming is permitted in park lakes; it is not recommended in the Snake River due to cold water, strong currents and logjams or floating debris.

LAKE AND RIVER BOATING

Motorized and non-motorized crafts require a park permit to operate on park

waters. Boaters can purchase either a seven-day permit or a season-long (annual) permit; fees vary accordingly.

To float the Snake River, you must register your craft with the NPS and obtain a boat permit. Boat permits are available at the Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center or Colter Bay Visitor Center or [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Motorized crafts are permitted only on Jackson and Jenny lakes (small engines only on Jenny). Human-powered vessels are permitted on Jackson, Jenny, Phelps, Emma Matilda, Two Ocean, Taggart, Bradley, Bearpaw, Leigh, and String lakes. Colter Bay Village Marina rents boats, canoes and kayaks. Sailing, waterskiing and windsurfing are allowed only on Jackson Lake. Please check with park personnel or visit [nps.gov/grte](https://www.nps.gov/grte) regarding current fees and regulations during your visit.

VEHICLES AND DRONES

Only approved best available technology (BAT) snowmobiles are allowed in winter on Jackson Lake for the express purpose of ice fishing. Non-BAT machines are allowed on Grassy Lake Road off the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. General snowmobiling is prohibited in Grand Teton National Park. All drones are prohibited within the park.

FIREARMS/HUNTING

Licensed firearms are now permitted in national parks, but they are prohibited in ALL government buildings, including visitor centers. Discharging a firearm in a national park is unlawful. Concession operations

have their own regulations. Check with the National Park Service or the park you plan to visit before your trip for the most up-to-date information. In autumn, an elk reduction program is conducted by special permit in specified portions of Grand Teton, on the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and on the National Elk Refuge.

STAYING SAFE

ALTITUDE

The lowest points in Jackson Hole are more than a mile above sea level. Trails and tram rides into the mountains can take you above 10,000 feet in elevation. Visitors from lower elevations may feel short of breath and should carefully consider their physical condition when planning backcountry travel. Minimize symptoms by resting, eating high energy snacks, drinking more fluids, avoiding cigarettes and alcohol and limiting strenuous activity.

DRESS

Sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and protective clothing should be worn every day of the year. During warmer months, a cotton shirt, fleece pullover and rain jacket or windbreaker is a wise combination against potential hot sun, high winds, rain or mosquitoes. Shorts are fine at noon, but long pants are better in the morning and evening. If you are visiting in winter, fall or spring, dress in warm layered clothing.

DRIVING

The view can distract attention from the road; share driving responsibilities so everyone can sightsee. Motorists may stop suddenly to avoid animals jumping in front of traffic or to watch them feeding by the road. If you stop to view an attraction, use turnouts to avoid being a traffic hazard.

Consider taking a tour of the park by bus. Contact Flagg Ranch Resort, Grand Teton Lodge Company or one of the many other tour operators. Note: mountain storms can result in snowy conditions or icy roads during almost any month of the year.

FIRES

Campgrounds provide fire grates for visitor use. Monitor your fires and make sure they are properly extinguished. Backcountry campfires are prohibited except at designated lakeshore campsites.

PETS

Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet when they are outside of a private vehicle. They are not permitted beyond six feet of roads, turnouts, parking areas and campgrounds open to public use. Pets are not allowed on the park's multiuse pathways, in the backcountry or on park trails. Service animals are allowed in the park, but must be kept under restraint. Pick up pet waste.

WATER SAFETY

Boating and rafting are popular on Grand Teton's many lakes and the Snake River (mountain water is usually quite cold year-round). There are no lifeguards at park lakes. No inner-tubing is allowed on the Snake River due to its swift currents and natural debris such as logjams.

Water from lakes, rivers or streams needs to be treated before drinking by either filtering or boiling to eliminate microorganisms that can make you ill, such as *Giardia Lamblia*.

VANDALISM

Damaging property or removing plants, animals and minerals from the park is illegal. Violators are subject to heavy fines.

Sights To See

Grand Teton's road system conveniently carries you by most of the park's famous scenery. Avoid possible traffic congestion and see more wildlife by taking your road trips in the early morning or late afternoon.

Most visitors enter the park just a few miles north of the town of Jackson on U.S. 26-89-191. Your first views of the Teton peaks appear to the west shortly after you pass the **Jackson National Fish Hatchery**.

Once you enter the park about three miles south of Gros Ventre Junction, U.S. 26-89-191 becomes Jackson Hole Highway. It has many turnouts along its shoulders; please use them to safely observe or photograph the scenery.

The 42-mile Scenic Loop Drive can be accessed from three points: Moose Junction to the south, Moran Junction to the east and Jackson Lake Junction to the north.

The following highlights are described as if you were traveling in a counterclockwise direction along the loop, starting at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, driving northeast on Jackson Hole Highway to Moran Junction, passing through Jackson Lake Junction and returning south via Teton Park Road to Moose.

Moose Village is 12 miles north of Jackson. Check at the visitor center for directions to **Menor's Ferry** and the **Chapel of the Transfiguration**.

Bill Menor built the first commercial ferry service across the Snake River just

before the 20th century, allowing travelers safe passage across its dangerous currents. You can ride a replica of the ferry during peak season (check at a visitor center for schedules). Nearby is **Maud Noble Cabin** where, in 1923, a group of citizens met with Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Horace Albright to lay out a foundation for the creation of Grand Teton National Park. The historic **Chapel of the Transfiguration**, built in 1925, frames one of the nicest views of the Teton range. Episcopalian services are held there during summer.

Blacktail Ponds Overlook, an excellent place for spotting osprey, moose and other wildlife, is just 1.3 miles north of Moose Junction.

You may see several private residences on your right (east) as you travel north. These are the homes of **inholders**, permanent residents who established property rights before the national park was created. The National Park Service has purchased many of these properties, while others remain under private ownership within park boundaries.

Don't miss the **Snake River Overlook**, just one of the numerous turnouts along the northeast route between Moran and Moose junctions. Many consider this the best spot to see the panorama of the Tetons. The willow thickets that flank the river were home to the beaver that attracted the first fur trappers to the region. West of Moran Junction, beyond the park's Moran Entrance Station, the road travels through wetlands along the Snake River.



Stop at **Oxbow Bend Turnout**, where **Mount Moran** acts as a stunning backdrop to glimpses of the river otters, bald eagles, American white pelicans and moose that frequent this stretch of slow-moving water.

Visit **Jackson Lake Lodge** (located northwest of Jackson Lake Junction) with 60-foot panoramic picture windows overlooking the lake, the wetlands known as Willow Flats and the Teton skyline rising in the distance. Take a tour boat from Colter Bay Marina to Elk Island on Jackson Lake and enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Drive down Teton Park Road, past the lake with views of the mountains, to **Signal Mountain Lodge and Campground**. South of the lodge, watch for the turnoff to **Signal Mountain Summit Road**, which takes you five miles to a vista 800 feet above the valley floor. From there you can see the entire Jackson Hole valley and Teton Range. Trailers and large motor homes are prohibited on the narrow summit road.

South of Signal Mountain Summit Road lies Jenny Lake Scenic Drive, which leads you past the stunning **Cathedral Group Turnout** where Grand Teton and its flanking peaks, Teewinot and Mount Owen, form an almost Gothic cluster. This is the only route to **Jenny Lake Lodge**. Beyond it, the road becomes one-way. Don't miss the **Jenny Lake Overlook**, since you can't back up if you pass it. Views into Cascade Canyon may tempt you to stop at **South Jenny Lake** and take a shuttle boat ride across the water to the scenic trails beyond. You can reach **Hidden Falls**, a half-mile from the boat dock, when the trail is open.

After leaving the Jenny Lake area, head south to Moose Village. Southeast of Jenny Lake, **Timbered Island** is an oasis of trees in the sagebrush flats and home to elk, deer and pronghorn. **Teton Glacier Turnout** offers great mountain views.

OTHER DESTINATIONS

Colter Bay Marina is the jumping-off point for many water activities. From Colter Bay Marina, continue north along the lake shore for 11 miles to the park border where the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway links Grand Teton with Yellowstone National Park.

The **Moose-Wilson Road** runs southwest from Moose to Teton Village. A special stop along this route is the new 1,106-acre **Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve** that Mr. Rockefeller generously bequeathed to Grand Teton National Park before his death in 2004. The preserve opened to the public in 2007 and has an eight-mile trail system and state-of-the-art visitor facility. This road also travels past the Death Canyon and Granite Canyon trailheads and eventually reaches the **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort** where an aerial tram takes summer visitors and winter skiers up the mountainside for a fee. Inside the park, the road is closed to large trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles. In winter, it is closed to all vehicles.

At Gros Ventre Junction on the park's southern boundary, a side road heads northeast to **Gros Ventre Campground**, the Kelly community and the Gros Ventre Slide area, outside the park's eastern border. This route travels through sagebrush and cottonwoods as it heads toward the Gros Ventre Mountains,



seemingly a different world from the craggy Tetons to the west. About a mile north of Kelly, turn right on the **Bridger-Teton National Forest** access road. This road takes you out of Grand Teton National Park 4.5 miles to **Lower Slide Lake**, the site of a massive 1925 landslide that dammed the Gros Ventre River, creating a lake. Two years later, the natural dam collapsed, causing a flood that killed six people in Kelly.

North of the national forest junction, you connect with **Antelope Flats Road**, a good spot for viewing bison, pronghorn and other wildlife. Heading west along this road back to Jackson Hole Highway, you pass many of the early settlements of Jackson Hole at **Mormon Row**.

Jenny Lake is one of the most visited areas in Grand Teton National Park. It has received many improvements in recent years. On the west side, there is a new viewing area at Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point, a new bridge over Cascade Creek, and many reconstructed and improved trails connecting overlooks. A new interpretive plaza greets visitors on the east side of the lake, and a newly paved trail leads from the Jenny Lake Visitor Center to the lake shore and spectacular new viewpoints. For current information, call **(307) 739-3300** or visit nps.gov/grte.



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

Exploring The Area

Grand Teton National Park is at the epicenter of an outdoor nirvana. While you are in the area, you may want to explore some of the region's other highlights by making day trips from the park or stopping en route to another destination.

NATIONAL ELK REFUGE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages a 24,700-acre refuge on the park's southeastern border; it serves as the annual winter range for 5,000 to 10,000 elk. As winter encroaches on the high plateaus and mountains of the Yellowstone ecosystem, the elk start migrating toward their critical winter range. At the end of the winter season, local youth scout troops gather at the Elkfest and auction off the elk antlers that are naturally shed every spring. A quarter of proceeds go to scouting programs and the remaining 75 percent to the elk refuge. The top buyers usually come from Asia, where antlers are considered to have medicinal value. For information, please visit fws.gov/refuge/national-elk or call (307) 733-9212.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART

The National Museum of Wildlife Art, perched on the hillside just north of Jackson, maintains a large collection of paintings and sculptures by Russell, Bierstadt, Clymer and other noted artists. Recently, the museum entered into partnership with Grand Teton National Park to display artwork from their prestigious collection in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming. For information, call (307) 733-5771.

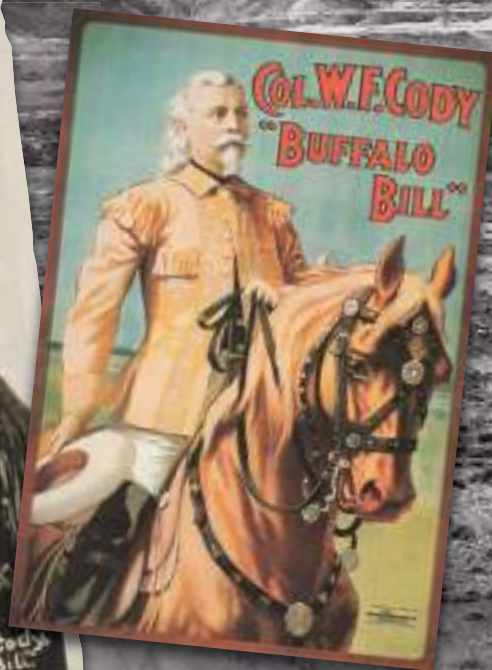
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST

This 3.4-million-acre woodland was part of the first national forest in the United States, established in 1891. It includes three wilderness areas (where motorized travel is prohibited), 1,300 lakes, seven major glaciers, the Wind River Mountain Range and large wildlife populations. The U.S. Forest Service manages the land for both recreation and commercial use, balancing the interests of hikers, hunters and sightseers with logging and mining activities. For information, please write to the Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, WY 83001, or call (307) 739-5500.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR. MEMORIAL PARKWAY

Seven miles of highway separate Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. In 1972, Congress designated the 37 square miles surrounding that road as the **John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway**, in recognition of Rockefeller's gifts of land to Grand Teton and other national parks throughout the U.S. and Virgin Islands. If you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle, consider a detour on Grassy Lake Road. It follows the Snake River and travels along wild meadows where army camps and freight stations were located during the region's pioneer past. The parkway is administered by Grand Teton, which keeps a visitor contact station near **Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch**. The highway is open to that point year-round, but access to Yellowstone through the

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South Entrance during winter months is closed to wheeled vehicles.

JACKSON AND TETON VILLAGE

This community of more than 8,500 permanent residents is the jumping-off point for year-round outdoor adventure. Jackson and Teton Village, which form the southern gateway to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, are popular ski destinations in winter and boast thriving arts centers. Contact the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at **(307) 733-3316**.

Jackson Hole Museum is open in the summer and houses exhibits that highlight the area's history. A few blocks away is the Jackson Hole Historical Society, a year-round facility for historical research. Call **(307) 733-2414** or **(307) 733-9605** (year-round), or visit jacksonholehistory.org for more information.

If you are in the mood for a world-class concert, get tickets to the Grand Teton Music Festival at Walk Festival Hall in Teton Village. Performances are scheduled from July 3 to August 23, 2025. The festival features a signature orchestra, musical tributes and shows. For information, or to

purchase tickets, call **(307) 733-3050** or visit gtmf.org.

From May 17 to October 5, 2025, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort offers aerial tram, chairlift and gondola rides from the Teton Village Base. One-day passes include unlimited access to all three. Gondola rides to the bottom are free for those who hike to the top. You can admire the views, hike down or have dinner or drinks at piste restaurants.

The aerial tram at **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR)** is a fun way to the top of the Tetons. Ride from the base of Teton Village to the summit of Rendezvous Mountain, at 10,450 feet. The trip is 12 minutes and offers a 360-degree view of the Tetons, Jackson Hole valley, and surrounding mountain ranges. From the tram, look for bears, moose, deer, marmots and other critters that inhabit the area. The summit is the perfect launch point for a day hike in the Tetons, a bird watching expedition or tandem paragliding back to the Village. The Aerial train is in operation from May 21. For hours, fees and further information, call **(307) 733-2292** or visit jacksonhole.com.

Itching to climb this summer but have little to no experience? Consider partaking in JHMR's newest outdoor attraction, Via Ferrata. This climbing adventure allows you to traverse over the resort's tricky alpine landscape while harnessed in and secured to a steel cable throughout your entire journey. Discover the thrill of climbing without worrying about the risks! Every climb is accompanied by a skilled guide. The season runs from June to September. For more information, visit the at jacksonhole.com/via-ferrata or call **(307) 739-2779**.

TETON PASS TO WEST YELLOWSTONE

Many early explorers first saw the Tetons from the west as they struggled to cross over Teton Pass, following ancient game trails. You too can enjoy the views of Teton Valley, Idaho by driving five miles west from Jackson to Wilson, following Wyoming Highway 22 (Idaho Highway 33) to Victor, Idaho.

Views from Teton Pass (elevation 8,431 feet) offer a panorama of the southern Jackson Hole valley. Early fur trappers knew the western Teton basin as Pierre's Hole. West Yellowstone, Montana—a western gateway to Yellowstone National Park and popular fly-fishing base—lies just 125 miles from Wilson. Note: The Teton Pass road is steep, curvy and prone to winter closures; check road conditions before departing.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

As bordering parks, Grand Teton and Yellowstone make a natural dual destination. Yellowstone's road system forms a rough figure-eight pattern: the 96-mile lower loop makes an easy all-day side trip from Grand Teton and includes Yellowstone Lake, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, Norris Geyser Basin, and the Lower, Middle and Upper Geyser Basin areas (including Old Faithful Geyser). The upper loop adds Mammoth Hot Springs, Tower Fall and some great wildlife viewing. For information about Yellowstone call **(307) 344-7381** or visit nps.gov/yell or pick up an Oh, Ranger! guide to Yellowstone.



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

Let us help you plan and remember your next visit to Grand Teton

grandtetonassociation.org



Find Us Online or in Our Stores:

- National Elk Refuge & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center
- Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center in Moose
- Jenny Lake and Colter Bay Visitor Centers
- Jackson Hole Airport Park Store

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PARTNERING WITH



History & Culture

When humans started visiting the Jackson Hole area about 10,000 years ago, they followed trails across the land that were created eons before by migrating wildlife. For elk and bison—and later, nomadic tribes and fur trappers—the Jackson Hole area was simply a crossroads or seasonal hunting ground. Winters were too severe for long-term residency. It wasn't until about 120 years ago that year-round residents became a prominent part of the landscape.

NATIVE PEOPLES

Archeological evidence reveals that bands of **Paleo-Indians** made summer camps near the Tetons soon after the last major ice age ended, about 10,000 years ago. It appears that they primarily used the valley to harvest its meadows of wild

plants for their edible roots and seeds. The valley's animal populations were hunted for their meat and skins.

Historians still ponder why these early bands of people left the area between A.D. 1000 and 1600 only to be replaced by today's more commonly known tribes of **Shoshone, Crow, Gros Ventre** and **Blackfeet**. Even these “modern” tribes visited the Tetons infrequently, usually only during the summer. They simply followed ancient animal trails as they crossed the Continental Divide, east of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole valley.

EXPLORERS ARRIVE

After Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition passed near Jackson Hole and headed eastward in late 1806, member **John Colter** stayed in the West to join some hunters in probing the upper Yellowstone River for beavers. Their efforts were apparently less than rewarding and Colter parted amicably with the trappers the following spring to return alone to civilization.

Colter's journey home was postponed once again, however, when he met up at the mouth of the Platte River with **Manuel Lisa's** expedition, which was intent on establishing a fur trade on the Upper Missouri River. Impressed by Colter's winter trapping experience and his ability to communicate with the Indians, Lisa persuaded him to help them with their venture. After Lisa's party established Fort Raymond, near the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, in the fall of 1807, Colter traveled widely to invite local tribes to the fort to trade beaver furs.

THE FUR TRADE

Beavers brought notoriety to the area at the turn of the 19th century, when giant commercial empires were being founded on the beaver fur trade. While British and American navies battled across the Atlantic in the War of 1812, **British and American fur trappers** skirmished in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. Fur trapping was a daring occupation: A man had to survive alone for months against treacherous weather, steep mountains, swift rivers and fierce competitors—both animal and human.

John Jacob Astor's **Pacific Fur Company** sent hundreds of trappers west and up the rivers into the Rockies, while competitors from the Hudson's Bay and Northwest fur companies of British-controlled Canada swept east from Vancouver. They all wanted to control beaver-rich canyons and valleys like Jackson Hole.

Many American Indians shared in the beaver business, selling horses and supplies to the fur trappers and doing some trapping themselves. But tensions grew, especially as more and more Europeans started making permanent claims to Indian lands. The arrival of white settlers also introduced American Indians to the disease of smallpox, against which they had almost no immunity.

When beaver hats fell from fashion in the 1840s, so did interest in the Tetons. Almost 50 years passed before another wave of newcomers found the valley promising enough to settle.

SURVEY EXPEDITIONS

In 1860, mountain man **Jim Bridger** led Army Captain **William Reynolds'** survey party through the valley. They collected information about the native tribes, farming and mining possibilities, and railroad routes.

RENDEZVOUS

Each year from about 1820 to 1840, trappers, hunters and traders from throughout the Rocky Mountains gathered at predetermined valleys to exchange the season's furs for equipment, tobacco, whiskey and news of the outside world. These events were known as “rendezvous,” from the French word for “appointment” or “meeting place.” While Jackson Hole never held one of the big, two-week gatherings, mountain men would use the distinctive Teton Range as a landmark meeting place before heading on to the more hospitable Pierre's Hole or Green River rendezvous sites.

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In conjunction with his exploration of the Yellowstone region, young geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden made several forays into Jackson Hole. Jenny, Leigh, Bradley and Taggart lakes owe their names to members of his 1872 survey expedition. Jenny was the Shoshone wife of mountain man and guide “Beaver” Dick Leigh, Frank Bradley was the chief geologist on the team and W. R. Taggart was his assistant. Another member who helped make the Tetons famous was William H. Jackson, team photographer, who produced some of the first photos ever made of the Tetons.

In that same year, 1872, President **Ulysses S. Grant** declared neighboring Yellowstone the world’s first national park and drew attention to a part of the country that was little known to the civilized world. The act heralded the start of a new industry in the region—tourism—and the Tetons were soon attracting their share of visitors, many of whom came to stay.

HOMESTEADERS TAKE ROOT

The **Homestead Act of 1862** granted 160 acres of land to anyone who promised to live and build on it for five years. The offer of free land apparently convinced many ranchers and farmers to overlook Jackson Hole’s poor grazing and farming conditions. New settlers, such as **John Holland** and **John Carnes**, built the area’s first permanent homesteads north of present-day Jackson in 1884. They found surviving to be almost as tough as the solitary mountain men before them.

Just getting the basics of modern life to Jackson Hole was difficult. Pack horses and wagon trains struggled over Teton Pass. Once in the valley, they had to deal with the swift Snake River. **William Menor** imprinted his presence on the valley when he opened his ferry boat operation in 1894 to provide a crossing on the Snake River at Moose.

In 1903, hunting guide **Ben Sheffield** started bringing wealthy clients to his camp at Moran. Four years later, homesteader **Louis Joy** opened the first dude ranch in the valley. He found that attracting visitors from around the world proved to be far more profitable than agriculture.

Mormon homesteaders, who settled east of Blacktail Butte, established 27 homesteads in the area that is now known as **Mormon Row** that offered easy access to the Gros Ventre River. Two of the remaining structures, the barns built by John and Thomas Alma (T.A.) Moulton are on the National Register of Historic Places.

THE MAKING OF A PARK

The Tetons first received government protection in 1897 when Congress created the **Teton Forest Reserve** out of land not included in Yellowstone National Park. As early as 1918, congressmen were floating bills to create a larger sanctuary by expanding Yellowstone’s boundary southward to include the Teton Range and northern portions of Jackson Hole. However, local residents fought and defeated three attempts to federalize land in Jackson Hole.

Creating a park in Teton country proved to be a mere wave in an ocean of controversy. In 1929, the central peaks of the Teton Range and half a dozen lakes at their base officially became Grand Teton National Park. The newly created park was only a third of its present-day size. Since this 1929 park

did not preserve a complete ecosystem nor protect mountain views from valley developments, work continued on the political stage to expand the original boundaries.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. entered the fray in 1926, when he toured Jackson Hole with Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Horace Albright. Albright believed the beauty of Jackson Hole country would be spoiled if the valley below the Tetons was left to uncontrolled development. Rockefeller, one of the richest men in the world at the time, agreed.

Since Congress appeared deadlocked on the issue of Grand Teton National Park expansion, Rockefeller took matters into his own hands. Through the **Snake River Land Company**, he quietly bought 35,000 acres of farm and ranch land between 1927 and the mid-1930s at a cost of \$1.4 million. Rockefeller’s stated goal was to donate the property for an expanded park; however, congressional and local opposition kept the government from accepting the gift for 15 years. As a last resort, Rockefeller forced the issue in 1943 by threatening to sell his holdings on the open market.

President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** responded by using presidential proclamation to create the Jackson Hole National Monument, a 221,000-acre tract of valley lands around the Snake River. His move took advantage of the fact that creating a monument didn’t require congressional approval the way a national park would.

Wyoming residents still felt betrayed. Congress acted by passing a bill in an attempt to abolish the monument, which Roosevelt vetoed. The State of Wyoming filed a lawsuit against the National Park Service to overturn the proclamation, but the suit failed in the court system. In a final effort to show disapproval, Congress withheld monument

maintenance money from the Interior Department’s budget allocation.

By 1950, these groups finally reached a compromise. The original 1929 park was united with the 1943 Jackson Hole National Monument, establishing an enlarged Grand Teton National Park with its present-day boundaries.

Today, most people would agree that Grand Teton National Park is a valuable asset to both Jackson Hole and the nation as a whole. Since the establishment of the park, tourism has surpassed cattle ranching to become the economic foundation of the region. With the development of major skiing attractions in 1965, Jackson Hole now has a year-round economy and is an ideal destination for any traveler.

FINDERS KEEPERS: SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TETONS

You would need a very long pole to fly all the flags of nations that once claimed the Tetons. Although France “owned” most of the northern Rocky Mountains until the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Jackson Hole area was outside its boundaries.

Spain had a claim on the region, although there’s little evidence that Spanish explorers reached the Tetons.

Czarist Russia also made a vague claim to the Rockies, extending from its ownership of the Alaska Territory.

In the early 1800s, English and Canadian leaders argued with the American government over ownership of the Pacific Northwest, including the Tetons. The mountains and valley didn’t come under exclusive American control until a treaty with the British in 1846.

Things To Do

SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL ACTIVITIES

No matter what the season, Grand Teton offers something fun and interesting for everyone.

FIELD SEMINARS AND TOURS

The Teton Science Schools' in-park campus, located near Kelly, offers various full day and half-day summer and winter tours for guests to experience. Several other organizations offer educational programs based in Jackson Hole. Please call **(877) 404-6626** for more information on Teton Science Schools or **(307) 733-3316** for other organizations. The Grand Teton Lodge Company has a company historian who offers walking history tours of Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village. Please contact the activities desk at Jackson Lake Lodge for information on these tours: **(307) 547-3100**.

BIKING

Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway encompass almost 300 miles of paved and unpaved roads; some roads have marked shoulders to separate bicycles from vehicle lanes. Bicycles can go anywhere cars are allowed but are prohibited off-road and on hiking trails. Pick up a copy of the NPS pamphlet "Bicycling" at any visitor center for more information. Bike rentals are available at Dornan's in Moose. Call **(307) 733-3307** for more information.

Teton Park Road between Moose and Jenny Lake Scenic Drive has wide shoulders and several spectacular scenic turnouts.

Because this route is heavily traveled by vehicles in summer, a safer option is to ride the park's multiuse pathway between Dornan's and South Jenny Lake. If you continue north, be particularly cautious while riding on the road shoulders. Just off this road is Jenny Lake Scenic Drive, a one-way, three-mile loop where cyclists are permitted to go against traffic. The Antelope Flats/Kelly area east of Moose has secondary roads that wind through sagebrush flats.

Numerous unpaved roads offer scenic rides for **mountain biking** and wildlife viewing opportunities. Suggested routes include Two-Ocean Lake Road (three miles) and the Teton Wilderness Road (five miles), east of Jackson Lake Junction; River Road (15 miles), between Signal Mountain and Cottonwood Creek; and Grassy Lake Road (52 miles), an old freight road between Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

Nearby **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort** boasts great lift-serviced riding. Its beginner, intermediate and expert trails offer downhill adventures for the entire family. Check **jacksonhole.com** for pricing.

BOATING

Slip and buoy rentals are available at the Colter Bay Village Marina on Jackson Lake. Boat, kayak and canoe rentals are available. Be aware that all rentals and activities are weather and water-level dependent; call **(307) 543-3100**, **(307) 543-2811**, or **(307) 734-9227** for information. Signal Mountain Lodge offers boat rentals on Jackson Lake; call **(307) 543-2831**. For information about using your own watercraft, see the "Park Regulations & Safety" chapter.



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If you haven't caught the stand-up paddleboarding bug, Grand Teton is the perfect place to try it out. The calm waters of String, Jackson and Jenny lakes make them ideal for learning. Paddleboards are available to rent from Snow King Mountain **(307) 201-5464** and other shops in Jackson.

FISHING

The lakes and streams below the Tetons are home to one of the few remaining populations of wild cutthroat trout, and many other game fish. To fish in the park, you need a valid Wyoming state fishing license, which you can purchase at Dornan's in Moose Village, Signal Mountain Lodge, Colter Bay Marina and online at wgfd.wyo.gov, as well as in Jackson. Request the NPS pamphlet *Fishing* at any visitor center for complete information. Fishing tackle may be rented at marinas on Jackson Lake and at Dornan's. For more information, call **(307) 733-3316**.

Grand Teton Lodge Company and Signal Mountain Lodge offer guided lake and fishing packages. Call Grand Teton Lodge Company at **(307) 543-3100** and Signal Mountain at **(307) 543-2831** for more details.

Note that Yellowstone National Park requires a separate fishing permit and has different regulations from Grand Teton National Park. Please call **(307) 344-7381** for information.

FLOAT TRIPS

The Snake River flows through the park and boasts unparalleled wildlife viewing while descending mild class II to III rapids depending on the time of year. Grand Teton Lodge Company launches morning and afternoon wild & scenic raft trips on

the Snake River from Late-May through late-September. Raft trips depart daily from Jackson Lake Lodge early morning to evening. Dates and times are subject to change. Please call **(307) 543-3100** or **(307) 543-2811** for more information.

Several other park concessioners offer scenic float trips. For information on these trips, as well as white-water trips offered outside the park, look in the park newspaper or call **(307) 733-3316**.

GOLF & TENNIS

Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club, just outside the southern border of the park, features an 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Tennis facilities include courts, racket rentals and instruction. Please call **(307) 733-3111** for golf information; **(307) 733-7787** for tennis information. The club also features a pro shop, plus a restaurant and lounge that offers refreshments, lunch and dinner. For more details on dining, call **(307) 733-7788**.

HORSEBACK RIDING

One to two hour horseback rides are available through the Grand Teton Lodge Company from Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village corrals. For details, call **(307) 543-3100**, **(307) 543-2811** or **(800) 443-2311**.

Private stock and overnight trips are also allowed in the park. For complete information, request the NPS pamphlet *"Saddle and Pack Stock"* at any park visitor center. Please write to the NPS, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY **83012-0170** or visit the park's website at nps.gov/grte.

MOUNTAINEERING

High-quality rock, easy accessibility and a wide variety of climbing conditions make the Teton Range some of the best mountaineering territory in the nation. From June to early-September, the Jenny Lake Ranger Station is headquarters for climbing information. Rangers provide current weather and route conditions, and assist with equipment selection, route planning and climbing times. The ranger station also has an extensive library of guidebooks, maps and photos of popular climbs. During the rest of the year, check in at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming for information.

Although the National Park Service does not officially require day climbers to register, all climbers are strongly urged to leave their specific destinations and schedules with a responsible

person who can provide park staff with vital information in the event of an emergency. Overnight trips also require a permit and registration of the intended camping site.

The NPS has a fully staffed rescue team in the summer months for safety and rescue situations; however, you and your party must prepare to be self-sufficient in an emergency.

Two professional guide services and climbing schools are authorized to operate inside the park. Call **Jackson Hole Mountain Guides** at **(307) 733-4979** or **Exum Mountain Guides** at **(307) 733-2297**. Climbers' Ranch/American Alpine Club offers extremely rustic overnight accommodations for climbers only. For information, call **(307) 733-7271** (open starting June 7, reservations accepted as of April 15, 2025).

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WINTER ACTIVITIES

The snowy months of the year showcase some of the park's lesser-known but still fascinating features. Wild animals replace tourists as the primary winter inhabitants and deep snow and low temperatures bring new challenges to park travel. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, backcountry camping, ice fishing and ice climbing are some of the seasonal activities that are popular with experienced outdoor enthusiasts.

Come prepared for extreme weather. Between three and five feet of snow is common in the valley areas, though some years more than six feet blanket the valley floor. Daytime temperatures hover around freezing; they drop below -25°F at night. Cold temperatures, low humidity and little wind can make for exceptionally clear, crisp and calm days.

U.S. 26-89-191 is plowed all winter long, from Jackson, past the Moose Village Junction, and all the way to Flagg Ranch. Other park roads may be closed to vehicle traffic.

SKIING

Park roads that are closed to cars in winter make excellent cross-country skiing routes, and wildlife may even appear along the quiet roadsides as you glide across the snowy landscape. Stop by the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center to pick up a map of **cross-country ski trails** or ask for advice on cross-country ski locations. All winter visitors are required to observe winter closure areas for protection of wildlife. Winter closure maps are also available at the visitor center. **Downhill skiing** enthusiasts enjoy the benefits of excellent snow conditions in the Teton Range. Three diverse ski resorts in the Jackson

Hole area offer a variety of skiing adventures: **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**, based in Teton Village, **(307) 733-2292**; **Grand Targhee Ski & Summer Resort**, located on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, **(800) 827-4433**; and **Snow King Mountain Resort** in the town of Jackson, **(307) 733-5200**. Snowboarding is popular at the resorts. For information, call the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at **(307) 733-3316**.

SLEIGH RIDES

Sleigh rides through the **National Elk Refuge** offer an exciting look at the wintering elk herd, which numbers up to 8,000 animals. Please call the refuge at **(307) 733-0277** for reservations. Dinner sleigh rides are offered near the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Teton Village. Please call **(307) 733-3316** for details.

SNOWMOBILING

Snowmobiling, on best available technology (BAT) machines, is allowed on Jackson Lake, solely for ice fishing. Snowmobiling is permitted on the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and does not require BAT machines. Some businesses in Jackson also provide guided tours into Yellowstone. Please call **(307) 733-3316** for additional information.

SNOWSHOEING

National Park Service rangers offer daily guided snowshoe hikes beginning from the Taggart Lake Trailhead parking area, three miles north of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road. Reservations are required, and snowshoes are available for a nominal donation fee. For more information please call **(307) 739-3399**.

■ Preservation

One of the most important pieces to the ongoing success of Grand Teton National Park is you, the visitor. There are many simple ways that you can help keep the park as pristine as possible and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

USE GARBAGE CANS AND RECYCLE

Do not leave garbage anywhere in the park and make sure to pack out what you pack in. Leaving trash behind not only makes natural areas look unappealing, but it can also harm the flora and fauna.

Garbage cans do not exist out in the wilderness, so pack a small litter sack with you when you hike. If you see garbage in an area, please pack it out. No one expects you to shoulder the burden of keeping the entire park clean, but there is a real satisfaction in knowing that you left the area in better shape than you found it.

Animals do not know that garbage is unsafe to consume. They may ingest wrapping and become ill. Visitors are encouraged to deposit recyclable materials in marked receptacles located in most developed areas and campgrounds.

Recycling in the park is extremely important in reducing the amount of trash directed to landfills. Using reusable water bottles instead of one-time use bottles is just one way visitors can reduce waste.

CHOOSE GREEN LODGING

Grand Teton Lodge Company,

Aramark and Flagg Ranch Company all have green commitments they adhere to in their resorts. The concessioners work to exceed the environmental standards set by the park.

Currently, Grand Teton concessioners have implemented recycling programs for paper, old corrugated containers (OCC), glass, aluminum and plastic containers. These programs help drastically reduce waste going to the landfill and can be used to create new products.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is a national program that teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and promotes and inspires proper stewardship of America's public lands. Many land management agencies are cooperating partners in this program. You can help minimize impacts to the natural resources and social experiences of other visitors by practicing these seven principles. For more information, please visit **LNT.org**.

- **Plan ahead and prepare.**
- **Travel and camp on durable surfaces.**
- **Dispose of waste properly.**
- **Leave what you find.**
- **Minimize campfire impacts.**
- **Respect wildlife.**
- **Be considerate of other visitors.**

Consider applying these principles during your travels. We always need your help in preserving our shared lands for future generations. It is the most important thing you can do for the places you love. Make the commitment to Leave No Trace today. You can make a difference.

WESTERN CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Western Center for Historic Preservation (WHCP) in Moose, Wyoming is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources in Western national parks. Headquartered in the Tetons' White Grass Dude Ranch, the WHCP trains craftsmen in the art of preserving historic western structures. The site creates a commitment to historical preservation and craftsmanship authentic to the period. Restoring historic buildings helps to create new sites for visitors and preserve the historical integrity of the area. For more information visit nps.gov/grte/learn/historyculture/wch-presources.htm.

YOUTH CONSERVANCY PROGRAM

The Youth Conservation Program (YCP) in Teton offers young adults a rewarding opportunity to work over the summer in the park. Most members complete trail maintenance while other projects focus on fire management and resource preservation. For information and to apply, visit nps.gov/grte/getinvolved/supportyourpark/ycp.htm.

VOLUNTEER IN PARKS PROGRAM

The VIP Program gives volunteers the chance to take part in a variety of vital volunteer work that helps keep the park running smoothly. Some of the projects involve campground and trail maintenance, working in visitor centers and organizational work. Hammer Corps volunteers help maintain or restore historic structures. For more information about volunteering with the VIP Program in

Grand Teton, call **(307) 732-0629** or visit nps.gov/grte/getinvolved/volunteers-in-parks-vip-program.htm.

PRESERVING HABITATS

Grand Teton is considered a part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and provides habitats for a plethora of flora and fauna (see the "Nature & Wildlife" chapter). The park keeps key areas safe for wildlife and species that need extra protection.

Grand Teton is home to formerly endangered species, such as the bald eagle, gray wolf and lynx. Their removal from the list is a victory. The park provides nesting areas for birds such as the sage-grouse.

ZERO LANDFILL INITIATIVE

In 2015, the National Park Service partnered with Subaru to begin the Zero Landfill Initiative. The objective is to identify, test and promote practices that reduce the amount of trash parks send to landfills. Three pilot parks, Grand Teton, Denali and Yosemite, have been tasked with becoming leaders in waste diversion and sustainable practices.

At Grand Teton, the first thing visitors will notice? Separate glass, aluminum and plastic recycling bins have been placed throughout the park. It is now easier to recycle at Grand Teton than ever before!



Just For Kids

RANGER PROGRAMS

Most ranger programs start mid June. They are a great way to learn about the park, whether it's learning how people lived, or discovering natural processes at work. Visit nps.gov/grte for status updates and event calendars.

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Complete The Grand Adventure activity booklet to become a Junior Ranger! Participants earn a Junior Ranger badge by completing the activities for their age. Check at visitor centers or the park newspaper for ranger-led programs and suggested activities to help complete the booklet.

Checkout a **Nature Explorer's Backpack** at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center and cultivate a sense of discovery through journaling. Recommended for ages 6-12.

EXPLORE ELK ISLAND

Tour boats from Colter Bay Village Marina visit this big island in the middle of Jackson Lake. Cruises that include breakfast, lunch or dinner are available. To book a boat tour, please call the Grand Teton Lodge Company at **(307) 543-3100** or **(307) 543-2811**.

JUNIOR RANGER DAY

Celebrate National Junior Ranger Day in the spring. This event includes activities for kids of all ages. Families can play park-themed games, explore rescue vehicles, learn from a ranger, and earn a Junior Ranger badge. For more information call: **(307) 739-3399**.

FLOAT THE SNAKE RIVER

You will love meandering down the Snake River on a flat-water safari. Take in the jaw-dropping views of the Tetons while taking in wildlife. If you don't feel comfortable renting a boat from a local provider, many local companies offer guided trips.

LAND THE BIG ONE!

Kids under 14 years can fish for free in park waters with an adult who has a valid Wyoming fishing license. Guided lake and river fishing trips and lake boat rentals are available. Kids aged 14 to 18 years old pay reduced rates for their fishing licenses.



Walking & Hiking

The best way to see the park's grandeur is on foot. There are many beautiful hikes in the park at a variety of skill levels, but be sure to consider your limitations when selecting a trail. Stop at any visitor center for advice about trails and hiking conditions.

Always keep in mind that you will be sharing the wilderness with native wildlife. Consult a ranger or the park newspaper about avoiding confrontations with wild animals and having a minimal impact on the environment. See the "Bears" chapter for more information.

Grand Teton National Park contains more than 250 miles of maintained trails. Routes in the valley tend to be easier and shorter than mountain hikes. Several trails are self-guiding, ranging between a half-mile and 23-miles long with free brochures or interpretive

signposts to point out interesting features.

Many of the routes in the park can be completed in a day or less. If you plan an overnight trip, you'll need a backcountry permit, available at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, Colter Bay Visitor Center and Jenny Lake Ranger Station.

CASCADE CANYON TRAIL

This is the showcase trail of the park. Take the shuttle boat across Jenny Lake (modest round-trip fare required) to trim two miles off the hike. From the boat dock, hike one mile to Inspiration Point following the path cut through granite by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s. After Inspiration Point, the next 3.5 miles to the forks of Cascade Canyon are relatively flat. **Lake Solitude** sits another four



miles down the trail. The trail continues more than 20 miles into the backcountry with elevation changes of up to 3,589 feet, depending on how far you go. Veteran hikers say the view improves with every step farther into the mountains. This trail also connects to all trails in the southern end of the park via the Valley and Teton Crest trails.

There is a new viewing area and walking paths around **Hidden Falls** and **Inspiration Point**; exercise caution in your surroundings even with increased accessibility.

TETON VILLAGE TRAILS

Located at the gateway to Grand Teton National Park, Teton Village and the **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Aerial Tram** provide access to amazing hiking trails ranging from

moderately easy to strenuous. Ride the tram's 4,139 vertical feet to the top of Rendezvous Mountain while experiencing **360-degree aerial views** of the surrounding Tetons and Snake River Valley. At the top, hikers have their choice of a variety of trails that make their way through subalpine tundra abundant with seasonal wildflowers and diverse wildlife. From the summit, backpackers can join the 39-mile-long **Teton Crest Trail** that extends between Teton Pass and String Lake in the park. The Valley Trail, which originates at the base and travels six to seven miles to **Phelps Lake** in the park, is another great option for hikers who want to experience lush forests with a refreshing destination at the pristine lakeshore. More details on all the trails can be found at the activity center at the base of the mountain in Teton Village.

WHAT TO BRING

The many hiking trails in Grand Teton National Park provide prime views of wildlife, exquisite scenery, fresh air and exercise, but no matter the difficulty of the trail, the journey can become dangerous. You never know what awaits on the trail, so it is important to come prepared.

Wear comfortable shoes with good traction on easy trails. Wear sturdy, broken-in **boots** and quality **outdoor socks** for more difficult terrain. Nothing ruins a backcountry outing faster than a blister!

Always bring **sunscreen** (elevation increases the chance of sunburn), **water**,

high-energy snacks and **protective clothing** in case of sudden rain or windstorms (or snow!). A **first-aid kit** and **insect repellent** are also good ideas. It is better to overcompensate than come up short in an emergency. While hiking in bear country, carry **bear spray**, have it readily available and know how to use it.

Most veteran hikers will tell you: going up, you get tired; going down, you get hurt. Since many hikes in the Tetons end with a long descent back to camp, please take care to avoid injury and don't overextend yourself.

DAY HIKES

Trail	Description	Round-Trip Distance Time	Difficulty Elevation Gain
Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch			
<i>Polecat Creek Loop Trail</i>	West side of level loop follows ridge above a marsh, habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.	2.5 miles 2 hours	Easy Level
Colter Bay			
<i>Lakeshore Trail</i>	Level trail follows east and north shoreline of Colter Bay then the perimeter of a forested peninsula jutting into Jackson Lake, providing views of the Teton Range.	2.0 miles 1 hour	Easy Level
<i>Heron Pond & Swan Lake</i>	Follow mostly level trail to ponds to see birds and other wildlife.	3.0 miles 2 hours	Easy 40 feet
<i>Hermitage Point</i>	Forests, meadows, ponds and streams along trail provide wildlife habitat. Terrain is gently rolling.	8.8 miles 4 hours	Easy 100 feet
<i>Lunch Tree Hill</i>	Short trail with interpretive signs leads to top of hill overlooking Willow Flats and Teton Range.	0.5 mile 1/2 hour	Easy 80 feet
Two Ocean Lake			
<i>Two Ocean Lake</i>	Traverses conifer forests along the south shore and aspens and meadows on the north shore.	6.4 miles 3 hours	Moderate 80 feet
<i>Emma Matilda Lake</i>	Follows lakeshore with views of the Tetons.	9.1 miles 5 hours	Moderate 440 feet
<i>Two Ocean & Emma Matilda Lakes</i>	Follows Two Ocean Lake's north shore, climbs to Grand View Point for 360° views, then follows south shore of Emma Matilda Lake back to Two Ocean Lake.	12.9 miles 7 hours	Moderate 710 feet
Leigh Lake			
<i>Leigh Lake</i>	Follows forested shore of Leigh Lake, with close views of Mount Moran.	2.0 miles 1 hour	Easy 40 feet
<i>Bearpaw Lake</i>	Follows forested shore of Leigh Lake, to the grassy shores of Bearpaw Lake.	7.4 miles 4 hours	Easy 40 feet
String Lake			
<i>String Lake</i>	Trail circles the lake through a burned area just below Rockchuck Peak and Mount St. John.	3.3 miles 3 hours	Easy 120 feet
<i>Jenny Lake Loop</i>	Mostly level trail skirts lake shore.	6.6 miles 4 hours	Easy 100 feet
<i>Hidden Falls</i>	This trail follows Jenny Lake's south shore, then climbs to a view of the cascade. Consider taking a shuttle boat (fees apply) to shorten your trip.	5.0 miles 3 hours	Moderate 150 feet
<i>Inspiration Point</i>	Follow trail to Hidden Falls, then continue up to Inspiration Point overlooking Jenny Lake. Consider taking the shuttle boat to cut your trip in half (fees apply). Contact park for closures.	5.8 miles 4 hours	Moderate Strenuous 417 feet

<i>Forks of Cascade Canyon</i>	Popular trail leads into Cascade Canyon with views of the Grand, Mt. Owen and Teewinot. Consider taking the shuttle boat to cut your trip in half (fees apply).	13.0 miles 7 hours	Moderate Strenuous 1,057 feet
<i>Lake Solitude</i>	Follow Cascade Canyon trail. North Fork leads to Lake Solitude and views of the Grand and Mt. Owen. Consider taking the shuttle boat to shorten your trip.	18.4 miles 10 hours	Strenuous 2,252 feet
<i>South Fork of Cascade Canyon</i>	Follow Cascade Canyon trail. South Fork leads to Hurricane Pass and views of Schoolroom Glacier. Consider taking shuttle boat to shorten your trip.	23.2 miles 12 hours	Strenuous 3,589 feet
<i>Holly Lake</i>	Follow Paintbrush Canyon trail through seasonally abundant wildflowers.	12.4 miles 8 hours	Strenuous 2,535 feet
<i>Paintbrush-Cascade Loop</i>	Hike up Paintbrush Canyon, over Paintbrush Divide, and down Cascade Canyon. An ice axe may be necessary until August.	19.2 miles 14 hours	Very Strenuous 3,845 feet
Lupine Meadows			
<i>Amphitheater and Surprise Lakes</i>	Hike up to glacial lakes surrounded by subalpine meadows.	9.6 miles 8 hours	Strenuous 2,958 feet
<i>Garnet Canyon</i>	Trail leads to the mouth of Garnet Canyon.	8.2 miles 7 hours	Strenuous 2,160 feet
Taggart Lake			
<i>Menor's Ferry Historic District</i>	See an original homestead on the Snake River, includes the Chapel of Transfiguration.	0.5 mile 0.5 hour	Easy Level
<i>Bradley Lake</i>	Trail climbs through area burned in 1985, then down a glacial moraine to Bradley Lake.	4.0 miles 3 hours	Moderate 397 feet
<i>Phelps Lake Overlook</i>	Trail climbs moraine to overlook Phelps Lake.	1.8 miles 2 hours	Moderate
<i>Taggart Lake</i>	Trail traverses area burned in 1985 to reach Taggart Lake.	3.2 miles 2 hours	Moderate 277 feet
<i>Taggart Lake-Beaver Creek</i>	Trail traverses area burned in 1985 and climbs glacial moraines surrounding Taggart Lake.	4.0 miles 3 hours	Moderate 277 feet
<i>Death Canyon-Static Peak Trail Junction</i>	Trail climbs up and then down to Phelps Lake, followed by a climb into Death Canyon.	7.6 miles 6 hours	Strenuous 1,061 feet
<i>Marion Lake</i>	Follow Granite Creek to subalpine meadows around Marion Lake.	20.8 miles 12 hours	Strenuous 2,880 feet
<i>Phelps Lake</i>	Trail climbs to overlook, then descends to Phelps Lake. Return involves steep hike up to overlook.	4.0 miles 4 hours	Strenuous 987 feet
<i>Static Peak Divide</i>	Switchbacks through whitebark pine forest to impressive views. You may need an ice until August.	15.6 miles 10 hours	Strenuous 4,020 feet
Top of the Tram (Fees apply. The Tram isn't running in summer 2021)			
<i>Granite Canyon</i>	Start at the top and hike down through alpine meadows to Teton Village.	12.4 miles 7 hours	Moderate 4,135 feet

Camping

Grand Teton National Park has established campgrounds, designated backcountry campsites and backcountry camping zones for your use. If you have the required backcountry permit, you're free to pitch your tent at designated lakeshore sites. Permits can be obtained at both visitor centers and online at **recreation.gov**. All campsites that were originally first come, first served will now require an advanced reservation. Visit **recreation.gov** to reserve your site ahead of time. Always remember to tell someone where you plan on camping for the night.

CAMPGROUNDS

There are six concessioner-operated campgrounds located throughout the park. Campsites that were once first come, first served now require a reservation. Book your campsite at **recreation.gov** (two campgrounds are RV parks that accept advanced reservations). Group sites are at Gros Ventre (75 people max) and Colter Bay (100 people max) campgrounds. Group reservations may be made by calling the Grand Teton Lodge Company at **(307) 543-2811** or **(307) 543-3100**. There is a modest per-night, per-person fee for group camping.

Jenny Lake campground will be closed until July 1, 2025 for construction which will affect campers as well as bicyclists and walkers using the connector pathway. This site is restricted to tents only, but all other campgrounds allow recreational vehicles. Trailer sites with hookups are available at Colter Bay (50 amp) and Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch (20, 30 and 50 amp). All other campgrounds have modern comfort stations, but no utility hookups. For information

about site availability, call **(307) 739-3603** or ask at any visitor center. Campground fees are charged per site, per night (higher fees for RV parks with hookups). The maximum stay is seven nights at Jenny Lake and 14 nights at all other campgrounds.

Public campgrounds are also available in Bridger-Teton National Forest, Caribou-Targhee National Forest and the communities of Jackson and Teton Village in Wyoming as well as Victor and Driggs in Idaho.

Gros Ventre has 279 sites and a trailer dumping station. It is open from April 26 1 to October 10. This is the park's largest campground is in the southeast part of the park, closest to the town of Jackson. There are also four group camping sites. Advanced reservations are required.

Jenny Lake has 61 sites (tents only). Open from July 1 to September 28. This small campground is a few hundred yards from the east shore of Jenny Lake and this location is extremely popular. There is easy access to Cascade Canyon trails from this campground.

Signal Mountain has 81 sites and a trailer dumping station. It is open from May 9 to October 12. Some sites lie just above Jackson Lake, and other sites are a short walk from the lake.

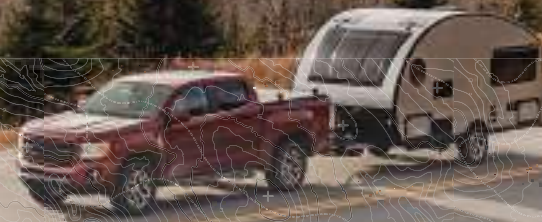
Colter Bay has 324 sites, showers, a laundry center, a grocery store, a trailer dumping station and propane. It is open from May 22 to September 28. There are 10 group sites.

Lizard Creek has 60 sites. Open from June 13 to September 8, this rustic campground is in a remote part of Grand Teton National Park.

Headwaters Campground and RV Park has 171 sites and is located near the Snake River with views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Open from June 7



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Nature & Wildlife

until October 1, this campground features 24-hour showers, laundry facilities, 34 tent sites, 40 **camper cabins**, and 97 pull-through RV sites with full hook-up (20, 30 and 50 amp electric).

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING ZONES

Overnight backcountry use is allowed in Grand Teton National Park with a permit, which now includes a fee. Campsites include lakeshore sites that allow fires in established grates, higher-elevation sites where fires are prohibited and several remote camping zones above 7,000 feet.

Backcountry camping permits can be reserved in person or online and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. You can pick up permits in person no more than one day before the start of your trip at the backcountry desks in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, at Colter Bay Visitor Center or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Note that 30 percent of the available permits may be obtained in advance by reservation at **recreation.gov** beginning January 7. For information about this process, visit the park's website at **nps.gov/grte** or call **(307) 739-3309**. In the summer months, call Jenny Lake Station at **(307) 739-3399**.

When camping in the backcountry, it is mandatory that you protect your food from bears and scavenging animals by following required food storage procedures, including the use of portable bear-proof food-storage canisters. Consult a ranger or get the NPS pamphlet "*Backcountry Camping*" for advice. To obtain the pamphlet online, please visit **nps.gov/grte**.

RV/TRAILER INFORMATION

Recreational vehicles are allowed at all campgrounds except Jenny Lake. No utility services are provided, but Gros Ventre, Signal Mountain and Colter Bay campgrounds all have dumping stations.

The Grand Teton Lodge Company also operates an RV campground with full hookups at Colter Bay. For advance reservations, call **(307) 543-3100**. For same-day reservations, call **(307) 543-2811, ext. 1088**. Next-season reservations are highly recommended.

Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch Campground, located just north of the park on the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, has full hookups. For reservations or more information, call **(307) 543-2861**. Next-season reservations are highly recommended.

The diverse wildlife in Grand Teton National Park complements the spectacular scenery. As part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the largest protected wilderness areas in the continental United States, it is home to many species, both flora and fauna.

Remember that animals have the right-of-way everywhere in the park, including the roads, trails and parking lots.

FLORA

Although the area's arid climate and porous soil make farming difficult, wildflowers and trees have naturally bloomed and beautified this valley for thousands of years. The **alpine forget-me-not** is known as a cushion plant for the way it grows in soft mats high in the alpine zone. Its tiny, bright-blue blossoms earned its designation as the official park flower.

Often mistaken for its cousin the sunflower, **arrowleaf balsamroot** is a common sight along park highways in June. Deer and elk feed on the plant's tender shoots.

Big sagebrush covers the valley floor of Jackson Hole. It may grow as tall as five feet and its trunk can reach three inches in diameter. The leaves and flowers, which bloom in late August or early September, provide nourishment for the sage-grouse, pronghorn and deer.

Blue camas display pretty blue flowers atop an 18-inch stalk. Blue camas bloom in June throughout the wetlands east of Jackson Lake.

Lodgepole pines are the first to make a comeback following forest fires because fire allows them to regenerate, as intense heat triggers its cones to release their seeds.

Longleaf phlox pokes its pink blossoms high on the Rocky Mountains, thriving despite tough growing conditions.

Teton hillsides shimmer with the bright yellow and orange colors of **quaking aspen** in autumn. It's a member of the poplar family, related to cottonwoods, and its thin leaves quiver in the slightest breeze.

FAUNA

Some of the largest and smallest of America's wildlife species live in the shadow of the Tetons. **Elk, bison** and **moose** are common; **pronghorn**, which have the longest migration of any land mammal in the Western Hemisphere, rove in small bands across the park's rolling sagebrush meadows. These graceful ungulates can run up to 60 mph, making them the fastest land mammal in North America.

About the size of collies, **coyotes** often howl to one another just after sunset. It's a distinct wail that's both captivating and haunting. Watch for them in meadows, where they hunt for **voles**.

Large predatory mammals like grizzly and **black bears, wolves** and **mountain lions** are typically more elusive.

Short-tailed weasels are brown on top and yellow underneath but turn all white in winter. Also called the **ermine** or **stoat**, they have slender bodies usually less than a foot long and feed on small rodents.

Sage-grouse live among and depend upon sagebrush, their principal food source. These large, chicken-like birds have black bellies and long, pointed tails. Males sport a distinctive white breast and a black throat. When flushed, sage-grouse cluck like chickens.



BEAVER

Beavers were the original attraction for Euro-American fur trappers to venture into the Tetons. Today, beavers continue building dams in the creeks and lakes in the Teton region. They feed on the bark of aspen, pine, fir and cottonwood trees and can often be spotted in lakes. • **Weight** 70 pounds (average) • **Length** 3-4 feet • **Active** year-round.

MULE DEER

Often seen grazing in meadows, the naturally timid mule deer has grown accustomed to people. Although it appears to be tame, the mule deer is a wild animal and may charge if it feels cornered or threatened. Its hooves and antlers are sharp, so always keep a safe distance. • **Weight** 70-475 lbs • **Size** 4-7.5 ft long • **Active** year-round.



AMERICAN BISON

Almost exterminated near the turn of the 20th century, the scattered bison herds in Grand Teton are representative of the millions that once roamed the Great Plains. These powerful animals can climb steep terrain, jump over fences and quickly outdistance humans on the run! • **Weight** 800-2000 pounds • **Length** 7-12.5 feet • **Active** year-round.

OSPREY

Osprey live in the park and have excellent eyesight. They feed almost entirely on fish, using their well-adapted barbed talons, closeable nostrils and reversible toes to dive after prey. Ospreys usually mate for life and take part in five-month partnerships to raise their young. • **Size** 21-24 inches long, 6 feet wingspan • **Active** in winter.



ELK

Elk are some of the most recognized creatures in Grand Teton, thanks to the adjacent National Elk Refuge. In autumn, the call of bull elk fills the air. Bull elk lose their antlers every spring; new antlers grow quickly and are covered with a velvet coating during summer. • **Weight** 700-1,400 pounds • **Length** 6.5-10 feet • **Active** year-round.

MOOSE

The antlers of bull moose grow through spring and summer to weigh about 50 to 60 pounds before they're shed in January. The long, lanky legs of a moose help them maneuver through deep winter snows or marshy bogs in search of succulent water plants. • **Weight** 700-1400 pounds • **Length** 6-9 feet | • **Active** year-round.

Bears play a central role in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Black bears are frequently seen in the park, and sightings of grizzly bears have become just as common since the grizzly population rebounded thanks to protections provided under the Endangered Species Act. While they may look similar at a distance, black bears and grizzlies have some differences you can learn to recognize.

BEAR COMPARISON

Not all **black bears** (*Ursus americanus*) are black. They can vary in color from black to cinnamon to blond. They are generally smaller than grizzlies and have much narrower faces. Weighing between 135 to 315 pounds, black bears have shorter, more curved claws than grizzlies, which help them climb trees.

Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) are the largest carnivores in the continental United States. They have a distinctive hump of muscle over their shoulders and a wide face. Their fur ranges in color from blond to black but tends to have silver- or grizzled-tips, hence the bear's name. Adults average 350 pounds, although some bears have weighed more than 1,000 pounds.

BEAR CLUES

Look for signs such as overturned or torn-apart logs, excavated mammal burrows, broken branches and twigs, and claw marks on trees. You may see scat (droppings) or tracks. Black bear and grizzly bear tracks are distinguished by their size: grizzly tracks are larger and can be more than 10 inches long!

When hiking or camping, be cautious in areas that suggest bear activity. Make noise when traveling by talking or singing so bears won't be surprised by your presence, and carry bear spray (Bear bells, although a fun souvenir, do not generally make sufficient noise).

IF YOU SEE A BEAR

If you spot a bear, do not approach it. Moving closer for a better look or to take a picture may provoke a charge or attack. Female bears with cubs or bears defending a carcass are especially dangerous. Always be alert.

If you encounter a bear, 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.



As a precaution for hikers in bear country, it is recommended that you carry **bear spray** and have it ready and available to use. Report all bear sightings to the nearest NPS ranger. Someone else’s safety may depend on your information!

DON'T FEED THE BEARS

When bears become accustomed to eating human food and garbage, their role in the park’s natural environment changes. They often turn into annoying or aggressive intruders who must be killed if they become a threat to visitors. Remember, a fed bear is a dead bear. It is up to each person who enters the park to take the necessary precautions to be responsible and safe by bear-proofing all food and related supplies.




BEAR-PROOF FOOD STORAGE REQUIRED

- To protect yourself and the bears:
- **Never leave food**, trash or other scented items unattended.



- **Prepare food** at least 100 yards from your tent site and do not store food in your tent or sleeping bag.
- Properly store all food and **odorous items** in metal storage boxes where provided, sealing items in **air-tight containers** to minimize odors.
- **Clean fire grills** and picnic tables after use and put all trash in a proper trash can or in your vehicle.
- If **metal storage boxes** are not available, seal all food and odorous items in airtight containers and lock them in your vehicle’s trunk.
- In the backcountry, pack your food and odorous items in approved portable bear-proof food canisters available where backcountry permits are issued. These are required for use by campers in the park’s backcountry. You can also use the metal storage boxes available at certain backcountry sites. Proper food storage is required by park regulation.
- Follow all park rules on bear-proofing food supply. Ask at a visitor center for a pamphlet on backcountry and bear safety.

IDENTIFYING GRAND TETON’S BEARS

Grizzly Bear	Black Bear
	
Prints   front rear	Prints   front rear
Color Grizzly Bears vary from blond 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.	Color 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 1,000 pounds. Sows average 375 pounds.	Size Males weigh between 210-600 pounds (95-272 kg), sows between 135-160 lbs (61-73 kg).
Height 3.5 feet (1 m)	Height 3 feet (0.9 m)
Body Shape The grizzly has a distinctive shoulder hump that is actually muscle mass.	Body Shape 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.	Face 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.	Claws 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.	Life Expectancy 15-20 years in the wild; more than 30 years in captivity.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually less aggressive than grizzly bears. • Often den in open spaces under tree roots and rocks at low to middle elevations. • Active mainly during dawn to dusk, 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. |
|--|---|

Photography

Exploring our national and state parks is one of the best ways to reconnect with nature—and bringing along a camera or binoculars can elevate your experience. Whether you're a seasoned photographer, a casual wildlife or bird watcher, or a first-time visitor hoping to spot something special, a few tips can help you get the most out of your time on the trail.

Photography isn't just snapping images—it's a way to tell a story, capture fleeting moments, and preserve the atmosphere of a place. In our parks, images can reflect the splendor of a landscape, the subtle beauty of wildlife, or the unbridled energy of a waterfall. Whether you're aiming to document your journey, make art, or simply share your experience with others, thoughtful technique makes a big difference. To get the most out of your park visit:

- **Time it right:** Shoot during golden hours (early morning or late afternoon) when the light is soft and warm. Avoid harsh midday sun when shadows are strongest.
- **Pack light but smart:** A mirrorless or DSLR camera with a wide-angle lens for landscapes and a zoom for wildlife covers most situations. Bring extra batteries!
- **Use a tripod:** For steady sunrise or night shots, use a lightweight tripod for better stability.
- **Compose carefully:** Follow the "rule of thirds" to add depth to your images.

A good pair of **binoculars** is the perfect companion for your trip—they don't just bring distant wildlife into view—it enhances your awareness of your surroundings, helps you spot elusive creatures, and allows you to witness natural behaviors without threatening them. Whether you're birding, watching

predators from afar, or scanning the treetops for movement, using binoculars skillfully can turn a simple hike into a rich, immersive experience. Here's how to get the most from them:

- **Choose the right specs:** An 8x42 pair offers a great balance of magnification, brightness, and stability for most users.
- **Adjust for your eyes:** Use the center focus wheel and diopter ring to fine-tune clarity.
- **Stabilize your view:** Rest your elbows on a surface or use a trekking pole for added support.
- **Scan with purpose:** Look for movement or color changes in the landscape. Animals are often camouflaged and reveal themselves through motion.

To protect both the environment and wildlife, always stay on marked trails to avoid damaging fragile ecosystems. Give animals plenty of space by using zoom lenses or binoculars, and follow all park regulations regarding restricted areas and seasonal closures. Moving quietly and minimizing noise not only reduces stress on wildlife but also increases your chances of witnessing natural behaviors without human interference.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Using cameras and binoculars encourages observation and you'll begin noticing subtle things—a fox's behavior at dusk, the changing texture of bark in different light, or a flash of color in the canopy. These tools sharpen your senses and help you build a stronger connection with the outdoors.

From photographing fog rolling through a valley to spotting a hawk soaring overhead, the combination of thoughtful observation and the right gear brings national and state park adventures to life.



Grand Canyon



Grand Tetons



Yellowstone Park



Yosemite Valley



Glacier Park

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If You Only Have A Day

Driving allows you to see the park's most famous features in the shortest time. The distance between the park's southern and northern boundaries is just 56 miles. The suggested route starts at the park's Jackson entrance.

VISIT HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS

At Moose Junction, turn left onto the Teton Park Road and, after driving across the Snake River Bridge, turn left again to stop at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Continuing your drive west along the Teton Park Road, turn right, just north of Moose Entrance Station, to visit **Menor's Ferry** and the **Chapel of the Transfiguration**, which are connected by a short, self-guiding trail leading past one of the park's historic settlements. You can ride a replica of Menor's Ferry across the Snake River during peak season as part of a ranger-guided walk.

From the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, turn left on the Moose-Wilson Road and drive 5 miles south to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, a 1,106-acre gift from Mr. Rockefeller. There you can visit the Preserve Center and walk along an 8-mile trail paralleling Lake Creek.

SURF AND TURF

Go north from Moose on Teton Park Road for 11 miles until you reach the North Jenny Lake Junction. Turn left to begin the Jenny Lake Scenic Drive, which passes Jenny Lake Lodge, String Lake and the **shoreline of Jenny Lake**. The road boasts some of the park's most famous mountain views. Catch the **Jenny Lake**

Boating's shuttle boat at South Jenny Lake and make the 10-minute trip across the lake to the **Cascade Canyon Trail**, a great choice for a short or longer hike (1 to 23 miles round-trip). Continue from the Jenny Lake Visitor Center north along the Teton Park Road to Signal Mountain Summit Road, a 5-mile side trip off the Teton Park Road near Signal Mountain Lodge that takes you 800 feet above the valley floor for views of the Teton Range and Jackson Lake (no RVs or trailers allowed). Two turnouts with picnic tables provide panoramic views.

JACKSON LAKE LODGE

Visit **Jackson Lake Lodge** with its 60-foot picture window lobby overlooking the Teton Mountain Range and historic murals. Sign up for an interpretive boat cruise on Jackson Lake or a Snake River float trip. Drive 5 miles north to Colter Bay Visitor Center, followed by a canoe or kayak trip on Jackson Lake.

BACK TO JACKSON

Return to Jackson by taking the Jackson Hole Highway and stop at Oxbow Bend. This large wetland area is home to wildlife. The **Antelope Flats/Kelly Loop** is a good choice for history buffs, as it passes by many of the park's early ranch buildings and settlements. A 5-mile side trip takes you to **Lower Slide Lake** in Bridger-Teton National Forest, the site of a landslide that dammed the Gros Ventre River in 1925. If you have time, take a gondola ride at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and hike down, enjoying the panoramic views of the entire region..



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A Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Club

- Dining
- Driving range
- Pro shop

B Moose†

- **Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center**

- Gas
- Gift shop
- Groceries/supplies
- Lodging & Dining

C South Jenny Lake*

- Boat to Hidden Falls
- Camping
- Groceries/supplies
- Interpretive plaza

- **Jenny Lake Visitor Center**
- Nature trails

*Jenny Lake Campground will be closed until July 1, for construction and utility upgrades. This closure will impact bicyclists and walkers using the Jenny-Scenic Drive connector pathway, use the detour by walking bikes to the Jenny Lake parking area. The Jenny Lake Boat Launch will be closed for construction for the 2025 season. Jenny Lake Boating, including shuttle boats and scenic cruises, will not be affected.

D Jenny Lake Lodge

- Biking
- Gift Shop
- Horseback Riding
- Lodging & Dining
- Nature Trails
- Wi-Fi

E Flagg Ranch

- Bus tours
- Camping
- Fishing
- **Flagg Ranch Information Station**
- Gas
- Gift shop
- Groceries/supplies
- Horseback riding
- Lodging & Dining
- Nature trails
- Naturalist programs

F Leeks Marina

- Boat launch ramp
- Boat rentals
- Dining
- Fishing
- Marina
- Picnicking

G Colter Bay Village

- Boat, kayak & canoe rentals

- Boat launch ramp
- Camping and RV sites
- **Colter Bay Visitor Center & Indian Arts Museum**
- Gas
- Gift shop
- Groceries/supplies
- Guided lake fishing
- Horseback rides
- Lake cruises
- Laundry facilities
- Lodging & Dining
- Marina
- Nature trails
- Naturalist programs
- Picnicking
- Religious services
- RV services
- Showers
- Wi-Fi

H Jackson Lake Lodge

- Bus tours
- Gas
- Gift shop
- Guided Fly and Lake Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Lodging & Dining
- Medical clinic
- Nature trails
- Naturalist programs
- Religious services
- Scenic rafting
- Swimming
- Wi-Fi

I Signal Mountain Lodge

- Automobile services
- Boat launch ramp
- Boat rentals
- Camping
- Fishing
- Float trips
- Lodging & Dining
- Picnicking

J Teton Village


- Bridger Gondola
- Dining
- Gas/Groceries/supplies
- Horseback riding
- Information center
- Lodging & Dining
- Mountain biking
- Scenic Aerial Tram
- Trails
- Via Ferrata

Moose-Wilson Road Construction

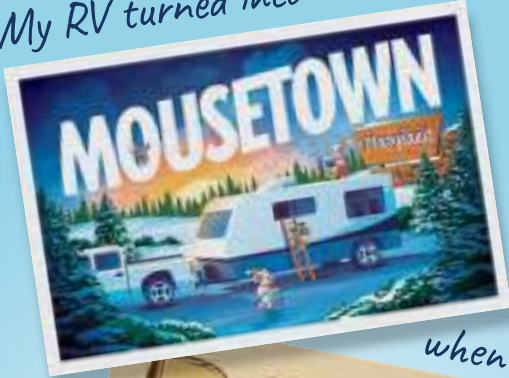
The southern portion of the Moose-Wilson Road from the Granite Canyon Entrance to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is under construction. It is open to through traffic with possible 20-minute delays.

† Moose Landing is under construction for the spring and early summer of 2025. Expect construction activity near the ramp and surrounding parking areas and paths. The boat ramp is not expected to be closed during this season. Plan your river trips with this in mind.



Locations with this logo  have the most impressive views of the park's landscape or are pristine wildlife habitat. You'll appreciate them even more with binoculars or a spotting scope.

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