

YELLOWSTONE Today



Spring 2009

Official Newspaper of Yellowstone National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Throughout
the Park

**TRAFFIC DELAYS
&
ROAD CLOSURES**

See back page
& below

NPS/Peaco

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The Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs, above, is part of historic Fort Yellowstone. This and other stone buildings at the fort were built 100 years ago.

Fort Yellowstone dates from the time the U.S. Army managed the park, 1886–1918. You can enjoy a self-guiding trail around the fort by following the exhibits that begin in front of the visitor center. You can also purchase a guide that explains even more about this National Historic Landmark District.

Expect Delays as You Travel In the Park

See map on the back page.

Plan your day to minimize delays. Our rangers offer these tips:

- Don’t wait until the last minute for a rest-room stop—the next facility may be on the other side of a 30-minute delay.
- Turn off your engine and listen to the wild sounds of Yellowstone—and save gas and reduce emissions.
- If animals are nearby, stay safe—stay in your car and watch them through the windows.
- Enjoy this park newspaper!
- Make notes about your trip so far—where you’ve been in Yellowstone, which features and animals you’ve seen.



SPEED KILLS

more than **100** deer, moose, bears, elk, bison, & wolves **each year**

SLOW DOWN
and save a life

Help Protect Wildlife Near Roads

- ◆ Always expect animals to be on or near the road.
- ◆ Follow the speed limit (maximum 45 mph unless otherwise posted).
- ◆ Increase caution at night and during wet or wintry conditions.

While You Are Here

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Stay Safe

IN HYDROTHERMAL AREAS

Beautiful but deadly: Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. Their crust is thin, breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water.

- ◆ Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. They protect you and delicate formations.
- ◆ Keep your children close to you at all times; make sure they understand the danger.
- ◆ Pets are prohibited in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Swimming or bathing is prohibited in hydrothermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a hydrothermal spring or pool.
- ◆ Avoid burns & infections: don’t expose your head to thermal water by immersion, splashing, touching your face, or inhaling steam. Thermal water can harbor organisms that cause fatal meningitis or Legionnaires’ disease.
- ◆ Dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide have been measured in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave the location immediately.

AROUND WILDLIFE

Wild animals are dangerous. To protect yourself and wildlife, follow these guidelines when viewing or photographing roadside wildlife, whether you are alone or in a wildlife jam:

- ◆ You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and coyotes.
- ◆ Park in established turnouts and make sure your car is completely off the paved roadway. Put your vehicle into park, and engage your parking brake.
- ◆ If you exit your vehicle, stay near it so you can get inside if the animal approaches.
- ◆ Do not stand in the road to view or photograph wildlife—you could be injured or killed by other drivers.
- ◆ Never surround, crowd, approach, or follow wildlife.
- ◆ Don’t block an animal’s path.
- ◆ Do not run or make sudden movements—this may cause animals to attack.
- ◆ If other people in the area are putting you in danger, leave the scene and notify a park ranger.
- ◆ Do not ever feed wildlife, including birds.

BISON are unpredictable and dangerous; they weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint 30 miles per hour (48 km/h). Visitors are injured every year.

BEARS live throughout the park. Be alert for tracks, do not approach carcasses, and avoid surprising bears. If you are injured by a bear (regardless of how minor), or if you observe a bear or bear tracks, report it to a park ranger as soon as possible. Someone’s safety may depend on it. *See also “Food Regulations,” at right, and “Bear Country Tips,” page 7.*

MORE SAFETY TIPS

Falling Trees Avoid areas with dead trees; they may suddenly fall, especially on windy days.

High Altitude Most of the park is above 7,500 feet. Allow time to acclimate; be aware of your physical limitations; don’t overexert. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration from altitude and dry climate. Stop and rest often.

Stream Crossings Check at local ranger stations for stream conditions.

Swimming Most park streams, rivers, and lakes are extremely cold; swim at your own risk. Swimming in hydrothermal features is forbidden.

Theft Lock your vehicle; keep valuables hidden; label valuable property with your name, address, or identification number; report theft or vandalism to a ranger.

Traffic Most park roads are narrow, rough, and busy; some have sharp drop-offs. Ice and road damage occur year-round. Drive cautiously and courteously; you must use pullouts to observe wildlife or scenery and to allow other vehicles to pass. Watch for animals on the road, especially at night.

Weather Yellowstone’s weather is unpredictable. A sunny warm day may become stormy and sometimes snowy. Lightning is common; get off water or beaches and away from ridges, exposed places, and isolated trees.

All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio If you have a weather radio receiver, tune to 162.425MHz (Mammoth area) or 162.450 MHz (Lake area) to receive hazardous weather alerts, or go to www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/nwr/.

Stay Legal

25

= the number of YARDS you must stay away from all wildlife—except . . .

100

= the number of YARDS you must stay away from a **bear or wolf**

45

= the maximum speed limit in the park *unless otherwise posted*

911

= the number to call in an **emergency**

FIREARMS IN YELLOWSTONE

Persons with a concealed weapon permit recognized by the states of Wyoming, Montana or Idaho may now carry a loaded, concealed firearm in those respective state areas of Yellowstone National Park. This rule applies only to outdoor areas; possession of a permitted concealed weapon or any firearm remains prohibited in all government buildings or Park Service offices, such as visitor centers and ranger stations. Anyone who lacks a recognized permit, as well as those in possession of rifles or shotguns, may transport an unloaded firearm in a vehicle when the weapon is made temporarily inoperable or packed, cased or stored in a manner that will prevent ready use.

THESE ACTIONS ARE ILLEGAL

- ◆ Speeding (radar enforced)—except for a portion of U.S. 191, all roads within the park are posted at 45 mph or slower.
- ◆ Driving while intoxicated (open container law enforced).
- ◆ Leaving detachable side mirrors attached when not pulling trailers.
- ◆ Traveling off-road by vehicle or bicycle. (Bicycling rules and riding locations are listed in a free brochure at visitor centers.)
- ◆ Improperly storing food—at *any time, under any circumstances (see below)*.
- ◆ Fishing, boating, or using a float tube without a permit (*see p. 6*).
- ◆ Violating camping regulations & rules (*see p. 6*).
- ◆ Camping outside of designated camping areas (*see p. 6*).
- ◆ Camping in the backcountry without a permit (*see p. 7*).
- ◆ Driving or riding in a vehicle without your seatbelt fastened. Each vehicle occupant must have a safety belt or child restraint system fastened when the vehicle is in motion.
- ◆ Having pets off leash or on trails and boardwalks. Pets are prohibited on all trails, in the backcountry, and in hydrothermal basins. Where allowed, pets must be leashed and must remain within 100 feet (30 m) of a road or parking area. Do not leave a pet unattended or tied to an object. Boarding facilities are available outside the park.
- ◆ Littering.
- ◆ Swimming in hydrothermal pools (*see above left*).
- ◆ Diving or jumping off cliffs in the Firehole swim area on Firehole Canyon Drive.
- ◆ Traveling off boardwalks or designated trails in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Removing or possessing natural (antlers, etc.) or cultural (arrowheads, etc.) features.
- ◆ Spotlighting (viewing with artificial light) elk, deer, or other animals.
- ◆ Calling in elk by imitating their calls or using buglers.
- ◆ Imitating wolf howls.
- ◆ Using electronic equipment capable of tracking wildlife.

FOOD REGULATIONS

These items—new, clean, dirty, empty, or full—may not be left outside, on picnic tables, in tents or tent trailers, in the back of pickups, or unattended in any location, at any time, day or night, unless in immediate use:

- water & beverage containers • cooking, eating, drinking utensils • stoves & grills • coolers & ice chests • trash • food • cosmetics & toiletries • pet food & bowls • pails, buckets, & wash basins
- ◆ Do not ever feed wildlife, including birds.
- ◆ Liquid or gas fuel stoves or self-contained charcoal grills may be used for cooking at all picnic areas (shown on the National Park Service Official Map and Guide; those with fire grates are listed in a handout at visitor centers).
- ◆ Campfires are allowed only in established fire pits in campgrounds, picnic areas, and a few designated backcountry campsites.

COYOTES & WOLVES quickly learn habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans and can increase the risk of the animal being hit by a vehicle or destroyed by management. Do not feed them.

Plan Your Visit

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Visitor Centers

Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth

Open daily, year-round.
Through April 16: 9 AM–5 PM
April 17–May 22: 9 AM–6 PM
May 23 & thereafter: 8 AM–7 PM

Exhibits on wildlife and history; films on Yellowstone and the national park idea. Information & bookstore. Call 307-344-2263.

Canyon Visitor Education Center

Open daily beginning May 9.
May 9–22: 9 AM–5 PM
May 23 & thereafter: 8 AM–8 PM

Interactive exhibits about Yellowstone's supervolcano and other aspects of its geology. A new geology film is coming this summer! Information & bookstore. Call 307-344-2550.

Fishing Bridge Visitor Center

Open daily beginning May 23: 8 AM–7 PM

Exhibits on the park's birds, other wildlife, and lake geology. Information & bookstore. Call 307-242-2450.

Grant Visitor Center

Open daily beginning May 23: 8 AM–7 PM

Exhibits & video on the role of fire in Yellowstone. Information & bookstore. Call 307-242-2650.

Junior Ranger Station (at Madison Information Station)

Open daily beginning May 30: 9 AM–6 PM

Read about the Yellowstone Junior Ranger Program on page 4, or ask at a visitor center.

Madison Information Station

Open daily beginning May 23: 9 AM–6 PM

Information & bookstore. Call 307-344-2821.

Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris

Open daily beginning May 23: 9 AM–5 PM

Exhibits & video at historic soldier station trace development of the park ranger profession from its roots in the U.S. Army. Chat with former National Park Service employees volunteering here.

Norris Geyser Basin Museum & Information Station

Open daily beginning May 23: 9 AM–6 PM

Exhibits on the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone. Information & bookstore. Call 307-344-2812.

Old Faithful Visitor Center

The visitor center is in temporary quarters near the Old Faithful Lodge.

Open daily beginning April 17.

April 17–May 22: 9 AM–6 PM

May 23 & thereafter: 8 AM–7 PM;
information window until 8 PM

Award-winning film about hydrothermal features. Geyser eruption predictions. Information & bookstore. Call 307-344-2750. *Old Faithful eruption predictions: 307-344-2751, during visitor center hours.*

West Thumb Information Center

Open daily beginning May 23: 9 AM–5 PM

Information & bookstore.

West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center

NPS desk open daily beginning April 17,
8 AM–4 PM; May 23 & thereafter, 8 AM–8 PM

Information, publications. Call 406-646-4403.

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce staff available year-round.

Weekdays through April 30: 8 AM–5 PM

Daily, beginning May 21: 8 AM–6 PM

Call 406-646-7701.

EXPECT
TRAFFIC
DELAYS



Self-guiding Trails: *Explore at your own pace*

Canyon Area View the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and the Upper and Lower Falls from overlooks. *New this year: Accessible viewpoints and walkways all along the North Rim Drive.*

Fort Yellowstone See the front page.

Fountain Paint Pot Closed until June for boardwalk reconstruction.

Mammoth Hot Springs Walk through ever-changing travertine terraces and enjoy a scenic drive through the Upper Terraces.

Mud Volcano Area Discover turbulent and explosive mudpots, including Mud Volcano and Dragon's Mouth. Located 6 miles (9.6 km) north of Fishing Bridge Junction.

Norris Geyser Basin Explore the hottest, most dynamic geyser basin in the park, which includes Steamboat, the world's tallest geyser, and Echinus, the world's largest acidic geyser.

Old Faithful Area The world's largest concentration of geysers is here. View Old Faithful then walk trails past hundreds of geysers and hot springs.

West Thumb Geyser Basin Boiling springs, including the famous Fishing Cone, enliven the shore of Yellowstone Lake.

Forces of the Northern Range Volcanoes, glaciers, and fire shaped the landscape here, 8 miles (12.9 km) east of Mammoth Hot Springs. Exhibits also help identify the area's plants and animals.



Accessibility

Yellowstone National Park is improving accessibility for all visitors. Some boardwalk trails, picnic tables, camp sites, and fishing areas are now accessible. Ask for the guide to wheelchair accessible features in Yellowstone; available free at entrance stations, visitor centers, and on www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkwide-access.htm.



Arrange for a sign language interpreter for National Park Service interpretive programs by calling three weeks ahead: 307-344-2251.

For more information:

Park Accessibility Coordinator
P.O. Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

TDD only (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf): 307-344-2386

Yellowstone Online



Videos & Podcasts

Plan your visit to Yellowstone, create your own customized guide to the park, or enjoy learning more about Yellowstone's famous attractions and hidden treasures through videos available on the park's official web site (www.nps.gov/yell) or as podcasts free from iTunes. Park rangers lead you on short video tours in the "Inside Yellowstone" series. Explore the park in

detail with scientists, park rangers, historians, and others in the "Yellowstone InDepth" series. These videos are produced by the National Park Service with funding provided by the Yellowstone Association and the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

Webcams

Stay connected to Yellowstone's dynamic landscape through webcams located at Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, and the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout. Old Faithful webcams offer live views of the famous geyser and other extraordinary thermal features located on Geyser Hill. The static webcam features predictions of the next eruption of Old

Faithful when the nearby visitor center is open (*see above*). Mammoth Hot Springs webcams provide sweeping views of the travertine hot springs and often capture wildlife such as elk, bison, coyotes, and wolves as they wander through the area. The Mount Washburn webcam provides outstanding views into the gigantic Yellowstone Caldera. On clear days, you can see Yellowstone Lake and the Grand Tetons far to the south. www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm

Electronic Field Trips

Attention middle school students & teachers — explore our free electronic field trips! Embark on seventeen adventures available at www.WindowsIntoWonderland.org.

Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center

The Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center offers access to scientific research and monitoring information on the natural and cultural resources of Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The site, www.GreaterYellowstoneScience.org, is supported by Canon U.S.A. through a grant to the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and by the Yellowstone Association.

Highlights

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Geysers & Hot Springs

In the 50 miles between Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful, you'll see travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs, acidic thermal features at Norris Geyser Basin, mudpots and colorful springs at Artists Paintpots, a giant hot spring at Midway Geyser Basin, plus beautiful hot springs at Biscuit and Black Sand basins near Old Faithful. West Thumb Geyser Basin is 17 miles east of Old Faithful; Mud Volcano is north of Yellowstone Lake.

Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River extends from south of Canyon Village north to Tower Junction. The most famous and spectacular section, including the Upper and Lower Falls, is seen from overlooks in the Canyon Village area. North Rim Drive features renovated trails and new overlooks that are wheelchair accessible. South Rim Drive takes you to Uncle Tom's Point, where you can view the Upper Falls, and to Artist Point, where you can enjoy breathtaking scenery.



NPS/Austin-Jones

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River features the Lower Falls (above), plunging 308 feet, and Upper Falls, 109 feet, plus spectacular formations, colors, and wildlife.

Lake Area

Yellowstone Lake is the largest high elevation lake (above 7,000 feet) in North America. It has 141 miles of shoreline and is more than 400 feet deep. With the Absaroka Mountains as a stunning backdrop, this area offers boating, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and hydrothermal features. (*Fishing and boating require permits; see page 6.*) You can visit historic buildings, view hydrothermal activity, and see the Yellowstone River flow from the lake on its long journey. Four visitor areas lie along the lake's shores: Fishing Bridge, Bridge Bay, Lake Village, and Grant Village.



NPS/Good

Yellowstone Lake usually begins to lose its ice in mid to late May.

Only One Day Here?

Yellowstone's park rangers suggest:

1. Drive to the Old Faithful area and walk around the geyser basin; drive to the Canyon area—stop at several overlooks and walk along part of the rim.
2. Add Hayden Valley to the above route—especially at the beginning or end of the day—to look for some of the park's large animals.
3. Visit the Upper Geyser Basin (Old Faithful, Biscuit Basin, Black Sand Basin); drive to Canyon and visit the Canyon Visitor Education Center.
4. Visit Old Faithful and one other hydrothermal area, such as Norris, West Thumb, or Mammoth Hot Springs.
5. Visit lesser-known features such as Calcite Springs north of Tower Fall, Roaring Mountain north of Norris, or Terrace Spring near Madison Junction.

Consider one or two moderate day hikes.

Each major area of the park has several hikes suitable for brief excursions into the wilder side of Yellowstone. Consult the "Dayhike Sampler," available for 50¢ at visitor center bookstores.



Especially for Kids & Teachers



Junior Ranger Program

If you are between the ages of 5 and 12, you can become a Junior Ranger! Stop by any park visitor center to purchase the official Junior Ranger newspaper for

\$3, then complete the program requirements. Junior Rangers will be awarded a wolf track patch if you are ages 5 to 7 (shown here) or a bear track patch if you are ages 8 to 12.



Young Scientist Program

If you are five years old or older, you can become a Young Scientist! Purchase a self-guiding booklet for \$5 at the Canyon Visitor Education Center (ages 10 and up) or Old Faithful Visitor Center (ages 5 and up). If you are investigat-

ing in the Old Faithful area, check out a Young Scientist Toolkit for the gear you need. Once you have completed the investigation, you will be awarded a Young Scientist patch or key chain.

Development of this program was funded by the National Science Foundation through a generous grant to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

Expedition: Yellowstone!

Teachers: We invite you, your students, and parent chaperones to participate in *Expedition: Yellowstone!*—a curriculum-based residential program. Through field investigations, hikes, creative dramatics, journal writing, and group discussions, students learn about the natural and cultural resources of Yellowstone National Park.

For more information, write to *Expedition: Yellowstone!*, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, or visit www.nps.gov/yell/ey



NPS

Mission of Yellowstone National Park

Preserved within Yellowstone National Park are Old Faithful and the majority of the world's geysers and hot springs. An outstanding mountain wildland with clean water and air, Yellowstone is home of the grizzly bear and wolf and free-ranging herds of bison and elk. Centuries-old sites and historic buildings that reflect the unique heritage of America's first national park are also protected. Yellowstone National Park serves as a model and inspiration for national parks throughout the world.



Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

"Greening" Yellowstone

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Yellowstone National Park, its concessioners, and its partners are leaders in sustainable practices that keep Yellowstone clean and "green."

The YES! Initiative

In 2007, in partnership with the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the park launched the "Yellowstone Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Initiative." YES! is a multi-year comprehensive plan to enable Yellowstone to build upon its sustainability successes by further reducing the ecological footprint of its operations and decreasing consumption of natural resources.

YES! projects, together with other park programs, will achieve the following goals by 2016:

- ◆ reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30%
- ◆ reduce electricity consumption by 15%
- ◆ reduce fossil fuel consumption by 18%
- ◆ reduce water consumption by 15%
- ◆ divert 100% of solid waste from landfills

Cleaner Travel

- ◆ Yellowstone National Park's vehicle fleet includes 17 hybrids. In 2004, Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc. donated four Prius hybrids (photo below). The hybrid combines a highly efficient gasoline engine with an electric motor that, when braking, captures energy to charge its batteries. The Prius has 90% lower emissions than the average car, better fuel efficiency, and runs quietly when using only the electric motor.
- ◆ Michelin North America donated high-tech, fuel efficient tires to the park's truck fleet. Fuel savings amount to 10% per truck and emission savings amount to more than 8 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.
- ◆ Dodge Truck, Inc. donated a three-quarter ton 4x4 pickup to Yellowstone in 1995 to test 100% biodiesel fuel. It has been driven more than 195,000 miles and averages 17 miles per gallon with less smoke, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxides emitted in the exhaust.
- ◆ All diesel-powered vehicles driven by park employees and many used by concessioners run on a 20% blend of industrial-grade vegetable oil and diesel.
- ◆ Yellowstone uses an ethanol blend in all gasoline-powered park vehicles and is the first national park to sell ethanol blended fuel to visitors at public service stations.
- ◆ More than 40 employees participate in a Ride-Share program, commuting in a park-sponsored bus.



Building Green

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has developed national standards for environmentally-sound buildings. Called LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System®, these standards are being applied in new Yellowstone National Park buildings such as the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center (*see page 8*) and the West Entrance Station (*now open*).

Other park buildings that use "green" building features include:

- ◆ Heritage & Research Center, in Gardiner, Montana, uses ceramic tiles, carpeting, and ceiling tiles that contain partial or total recycled content.
- ◆ Lewis Lake Ranger Station & Residence is partially powered by solar panels.
- ◆ Lamar Buffalo Ranch uses a solar panel array that provides more than 70% of its energy needs.

Park rangers often use hybrid cars.



Annual Recycling

In 2008, Yellowstone National Park and its concessioners kept 75% of the park's waste out of landfills. The park recycled:

- ◆ 89 tons of newspapers, office paper, and magazines
- ◆ 30 tons of aluminum and steel
- ◆ 174 tons of glass
- ◆ 39 tons of plastic containers
- ◆ 278 tons of cardboard
- ◆ >15,000 small propane cylinders, using a machine developed by a Yellowstone park employee and funded by the Yellowstone Park Foundation
- ◆ 6,000 used tires



Old Faithful Geyser viewers stand on a plastic boardwalk made from the equivalent of three million plastic milk jugs. Unilever donated the plastic lumber.

You can recycle a lot of your trash while you are visiting Yellowstone. Look for large brown recycling bins for glass, plastic, cans, and paper in major areas of the park (*see the map on the last page*). Look for other recycling bins in park lodging and dining facilities, visitor centers, and in stores.

SAVE on Entrance Fees!



good for camping or for some other fees such as parking fees at Mount Rushmore or cave tours at various parks. Be sure to inquire locally.
Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports will be accepted until they expire.

The "America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" provides several pass options for people to use at federal recreation sites—including national parks and wildlife refuges—where entrance fees are charged. You can purchase this pass at one of Yellowstone's entrance stations or go to <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>. The pass is not

Entrance Fees

Private, noncommercial automobile	\$25 (7 days, both Yellowstone and Grand Teton)
Individual motorcycle	\$20 (7 days, both parks)
Single entry (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$12 (7 days, both parks)
Yellowstone–Grand Teton Pass	\$50 (valid one year from month of purchase)
America the Beautiful Pass—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass	\$80 (valid for one year from month of purchase for entrance fees to federal fee areas)
Senior Pass	\$10—for U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who are 62 or older.
Access Pass	Free—for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled and present such documentation.

Camping & Fishing

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Campgrounds

Tour the campgrounds on the internet! Go to www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/camping-in-yellowstone.htm

Listed in order of opening	Dates	Fees**	Sites	Elev (ft)	Features	RV sites
Mammoth	All year	\$14	85	6,200	A, F, G, S	most are pull-through
Madison*	5/1–10/25	\$18.50	>250	6,800	A, F, DS, G	call for availability & reservations
Fishing Bridge RV*	5/15–9/27	\$36	>325	7,800	F, S/L, DS, G	call for availability & reservations
Norris	5/15–9/28	\$14	>100	7,500	F, G	2 @ 50' (signed); 5 @ 30'
Tower Fall	5/15–9/28	\$12	31	6,600	V	all @ 30' or less; has hairpin curve
Bridge Bay*	5/29–9/13	\$18.50	>425	7,800	A, F, DS, G	call for availability & reservations
Slough Creek	5/22–10/31	\$12	28	6,250	V	14 @ 30', walk through first to assess sites beyond #16
Canyon*	6/5–9/6	\$18.50	>250	7,900	A, F, S/L, DS, G	call for availability & reservations
Pebble Creek	6/12–9/28	\$12	>30	6,900	V	some long pull-throughs
Indian Creek	6/12–9/14	\$12	75	7,300	V	10@ 40'; 35 @ 30'; pull-through
Lewis Lake	6/15–11/1	\$12	85	7,800	V	a few @ 25'
Grant Village*	6/21–9/20	\$18.50	>400	7,800	A, F, S/L, DS, G	call for availability & reservations

*Sites you can reserve.

**Fee does not include tax.

A Accessible sites available
F Flush toilets
V Vault toilets
S/L Pay showers/laundry nearby
DS Dump station
G Generators OK 8 AM–8 PM

First-Come, First-Served

Seven campgrounds are operated by the National Park Service: Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, Mammoth, Norris, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Tower Fall. These campgrounds are not on a reservation system.

Reservable Sites

You can reserve a site at the five campgrounds operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, indicated by * on the chart.

For same-day reservations, call 307-344-7311 or ask at any campground registration desk.

For future reservations, call toll-free 866-Geyserland (866-439-7375), or write Xanterra Parks & Resorts, P.O. Box 165, YNP, WY 82190; www.travelyellowstone.com.

Fishing Bridge RV Park is for hard-sided vehicles only (no tents or tent trailers are allowed).

Check-in & Check-out

Check-in any time, but sites may not be available before 11 AM. Registration desks at reservable campgrounds are staffed 7 AM–10 PM, May 24–August 27; 8 AM–9 PM, early and late season. Check-out time is 11 AM.

Know Vehicle, Tent, and Tow Sizes

If you want to reserve a site, you will be asked for the length and width of your tent, RV, or the combined length of your car or pickup and anything you are towing. For non-reservable sites, use the total length to determine which campground can best accommodate your rig.

Length of Stay

Camping is limited to 14 days from July 1 through Labor Day (first Monday in September) and to 30 days the rest of the year; no limit at Fishing Bridge.

Group Camping

Group camping (tents only) is available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay for organized groups with a designated leader such as youth or educational groups. Fees range from \$56–81 (plus tax) per night, depending on group size. Reservations are required. Call 307-344-7311 or toll-free 866-Geyserland (866-439-7375), or write Xanterra Parks & Resorts, P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; or email YNPSA@Xanterra.com.

Quiet Hours

Each visitor deserves to hear the natural sounds of this beautiful environment. Respect this by complying with the law: generators prohibited 8 PM–8 AM; quiet hours, 10 PM–6 AM. No loud audio devices, or other noise disturbances will be allowed during this time. Generators are only permitted in seven campgrounds. (See chart.)

NO Overflow Camping

No overflow camping exists in Yellowstone National Park. Camping or overnight vehicle parking in pullouts, parking areas, picnic grounds, or any place other than a designated campground is not permitted. Camping is often available in neighboring communities and public lands outside the park. (See page 13.)

Discounts

Holders of Senior and Access passes receive approximately a 50% discount on camping fees, except at Fishing Bridge, where no discounts apply. (See page 5.)

WARNING! Food & Odors Attract Bears

The future of bears, your safety, and the safety of others depend on you. Read and follow the regulations on page 2. NEVER feed any animal, including bears. NEVER leave food unattended, even for one minute.

Attention Anglers!

You must have a Yellowstone National Park fishing permit. Barbless hooks ONLY. Know the park's regulations.

Fishing Season

Yellowstone's fishing season generally begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues through the first Sunday of November. However, many exceptions exist. Read the park fishing regulations or go to the park website: www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm

Fishing Regulations

Obtain park fishing regulations at ranger stations, visitor centers, and general stores. They changed in 2006; know the rules.

In Yellowstone, wildlife takes precedence over humans as consumers of fish. All fish are wild (there is no stocking), so sufficient adult fish must remain to reproduce and maintain populations and to assure genetic diversity. These facts require both a philosophical and literal distinction between recreational angling and consuming fish. In Yellowstone, angling is based on fishing for native species of wild trout in a natural setting.

Fishing regulations in Yellowstone National Park have evolved as ongoing research reveals population trends and interrelationships with the rest of the Yellowstone ecosystem. Increasing numbers of anglers have also influenced the development of regulations by their impact on certain species and aquatic habitats.

Permits

Fishing All anglers 16 or older must possess a valid Yellowstone National Park fishing permit to fish in the park; state permits are not valid. 3 days—\$15; 7 days—\$20; season—\$35. Permits are available at ranger stations, visitor centers, Yellowstone General Stores, and flyshops in the local communities.

Anglers 15 or younger have two options: fish without a permit under direct supervision of an adult who has a permit or obtain a free permit that must be signed by an adult. The adult must ensure the child complies with all fishing regulations and provisions.

Boats & Float Tubes You must have a boat permit to use boats and float tubes; their use is limited to a few locations. Obtain these permits in person at: South Entrance, Lewis Lake Campground, Grant Village Backcountry Office, Bridge Bay Ranger Station. Non-motorized boating permits only are available at the Canyon, Mammoth, and Old Faithful backcountry offices, Bechler Ranger Station, West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, and Northeast Entrance. You must have a Coast Guard approved “wearable” personal flotation device for each person on board.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are plants and animals not native to the park and cause irreversible harm to the naturally-functioning ecosystem that exists here. Already, New Zealand mudsnails, whirling disease, and lake trout have resulted in loss of fisheries and closure of areas that once abounded with trout. You can help prevent the spread of harmful exotic invaders!

CLEAN YOUR BOAT

CLEAN YOUR GEAR

Do not release plants, fish, or animals into a body of water unless it came out of that body of water. If you witness a violation, please contact a local park ranger, stop by a visitor center, or call 307-344-7381, dial “0.”

Hiking in Bear Country

Spring 2009

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Backcountry Tips and Regulations

Accessibility

Wheelchairs and some types of service animals are allowed in the backcountry. Contact a backcountry office (see below) for further information before taking them into the backcountry.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted only in established fire pits at certain campsites; you will be given this information when you obtain your overnight permit.

Day Hiking

Talk to a park ranger at a backcountry office or visitor center before beginning a day hike. They know trail conditions, the weather forecast, and if areas are closed due to bear or management activities.

Drinking Water

Drinking untreated water may lead to intestinal infection. Filter water with a good commercial filter, treat it with a chemical such as iodine or chlorine, or boil it at least one minute. Never drink water from a hot spring.

Hypothermia

Exposure to wind, rain, or cold can cause hypothermia, which can kill you. Early warning signs include shivering, slurred speech, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Put on dry clothes and drink warm fluids at the first signs.

Non-native Plants

Invasive non-native plants (noxious weeds) threaten the park's ecosystem. Major

threats include: spotted knapweed, ox-eye daisy, St. Johnswort, musk thistle, leafy spurge, and dalmatian toadflax. If you see these or other exotic species in the backcountry, notify a park ranger.

Overnight Trips

Permits are required. Obtain a permit at a backcountry office not more than 48 hours in advance of the first date of the trip. You will be given full instructions about backcountry regulations and safety. You can also reserve campsites at a backcountry office or by mail (see below) for a \$20 fee.

Pack It In—& Out

You must carry all refuse out of the

backcountry, including items partly burned (foil, glass, etc.).

Sanitation

Bury human waste 6 to 8 inches (15–20 cm) below ground and a minimum of 100 feet (30 m) from water. Dispose of waste water at least 100 feet (30 m) from water or campsites. Do not wash yourself, clothing, or dishes in lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams.

Stock Use

Not all trails are open to stock. Inquire at backcountry offices and ranger stations.

IMPORTANT: All stock users in Yellowstone must possess proof of a negative Coggins test performed within the last 12 months for each animal.

For more information: Backcountry Office, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, 82190; 307-344-2160; www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm

Bear Country Tips



NPS Photo

If You Carry Bear Pepper Spray:

- ◆ Use *bear* pepper spray. Personal self-defense pepper spray is not effective.
- ◆ The canister must be immediately available, not in your pack.
- ◆ It is effective only at distances of 10–30 feet and can be adversely affected by wind, cold temperatures, and age of the spray.
- ◆ Follow the manufacturer's instructions, know how to use the spray, and be aware of its limitations, including the expiration date.
- ◆ If you use the spray to stop a bear, leave the area immediately. The spray is effective for a short time and is less effective the second time.
- ◆ It is not a repellent. Don't spray it on people, tents, or backpacks.
- ◆ Carrying bear pepper spray is no substitute for vigilance and exercising safety precautions.

A Fed Bear Is a Dead Bear

Do not leave packs containing food unattended, even for a few minutes. If a bear obtains human food even once, it often becomes aggressive about obtaining such food, and may have to be destroyed or removed from the park.

Alert Bears to Your Presence

Make loud noises, shout, or sing. Hike in groups, stay on maintained trails, and use caution if vision is obstructed. Do not hike after dark. Avoid carcasses; bears often defend this source of food.

If You Encounter a Bear

Do not run; bears can easily outrun you. Plus, running may cause an otherwise non-aggressive bear to attack. If the bear is unaware of you, keep out of sight and detour behind and downwind of the bear. If the bear is aware of you but has not acted aggressively, slowly back away.

Do not drop your pack! This teaches bears how to obtain human foods and often means the bear must be removed.

Climbing trees to avoid bears is not often practical. All black bears, all grizzly cubs, and some adult grizzlies can climb trees. Plus, running to a tree may provoke an otherwise uncertain bear to chase you.

If a Bear Approaches or Charges You

Do not run. Some bears will bluff their way out of a threatening situation by charging, then veering off or stopping abruptly. Bear experts generally recommend standing still until the bear stops and then slowly backing away. If you are attacked, try to lie on the ground completely flat on your stomach. Spread your legs and clasp your hands over the back of your neck. Do not drop your pack! It will protect your back.

Get an inside look with the

Yellowstone Association Institute

Private Day Tours with Institute Naturalists

Choose from wildlife watching, day hiking, or learning about park geology. We'll introduce you to Yellowstone, provide advice to make the most of your visit, and show you the wonders of the park.

DAILY CHOICES

Activity levels will be tailored to your group.

Wildlife Watching on the Northern Range

Start: 8 AM at Gardiner, Mammoth, Roosevelt, or Lamar

Discover diverse and abundant wildlife. Learn how to search for wildlife and how to use binoculars and spotting scopes.

Natural History & Geology: Yellowstone Lake & Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Start: 8 AM at Gardiner, Mammoth, Canyon, Norris, or Lake

Explore natural and geologic history. Search for wildlife in the Hayden Valley and learn about the Yellowstone volcano on easy strolls.

Geysers, Mudpots, & Hot Springs: Old Faithful Area

Start: 8 AM at Gardiner, Mammoth, Norris, Madison, or Old Faithful

Take an in-depth look at how geologic features form and why they do the things they do. Learn about the wonders of the Yellowstone volcano.

Day Hiking in Yellowstone

Start: 8 AM at Gardiner, Mammoth, Canyon, Old Faithful, Lake, Roosevelt, or Madison

Explore Yellowstone's diverse landscape on carefully chosen hikes. Learn safe, low-impact backcountry travel in grizzly country.

Rates:

1–5 people \$495, 6–13 people \$625
Rates effective through April 13, 2010.

Advanced reservations are required.

Call 406-848-2400

Monday–Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM



INSPIRE. EDUCATE. PRESERVE.

www.YellowstoneAssociation.org

The Yellowstone Association is a nonprofit organization operating bookstores in visitor centers and information stations. Sales of maps, books, DVDs, and other educational materials support the educational, interpretive, historical, and scientific activities of the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park.



The National Park Service is a proud partner of Leave No Trace, a national education program promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of our public lands through outdoor skills and ethics. NPS urges you to learn how to minimize recreation impacts and help protect Yellowstone's precious wildlands for future enjoyment. For more information, visit a backcountry office in the park or www.LNT.org.

Symbols of Yellowstone

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Spring 2009

About Old Faithful Geyser

Many myths exist about Old Faithful, the world’s most famous geyser (shown at left). Use the lists below to sort the facts from myths.

Myths

- ✗ No one can predict Old Faithful anymore.
- ✗ It is so predictable, you can set your watch by its eruption.
- ✗ It is the only predictable geyser.
- ✗ It is the most predictable geyser.
- ✗ It erupts every hour on the hour.
- ✗ Its eruption is not as high as it used to be.
- ✗ Its eruption lasts less time than it used to.
- ✗ Park rangers can control Old Faithful’s eruption.

Facts

- ✓ Old Faithful’s eruption duration, height, and the interval between eruptions varies daily and yearly.
- ✓ As of March 2008, an eruption lasts 1½ to 5 minutes; the average interval between eruptions is 90 minutes.
- ✓ Old Faithful’s height ranges from 106 feet to more than 180 feet, averaging 130 feet.
- ✓ 3,700 to 8,400 gallons of water are expelled per eruption, depending on the length of eruption.
- ✓ Just prior to eruption, water temperature at the vent is 204°F (95.6°C).



Old Faithful Geyser, Upper Geyser Basin NPS

How Geysers Work

Geysers are hot springs with narrow spaces in their plumbing, usually near the surface. These constrictions prevent water from circulating freely to the surface where heat would escape. The deepest circulating water can exceed the surface boiling point (199°F/93°C).

The surrounding pressure also increases with depth, much as it does with depth in the ocean. Increased pressure exerted by the enormous weight of the overlying rock and water prevents the water from vaporizing.

As the water rises, steam forms. Bubbling upward, steam expands as it nears the top of the water column until the bubbles are too large and numerous to pass freely through the constrictions. At a critical point, the confined bubbles actually lift the water above, causing the geyser to splash or overflow. This decreases pressure on the system, and violent boiling results. Tremendous amounts of steam force water out of the vent, and the eruption begins.

Water is expelled faster than it can enter the geyser’s plumbing system, and the heat and pressure gradually decrease. The eruption stops when the water reservoir is exhausted or when the gas bubbles diminish enough to be able to rise without ejecting the water.



Whirligig Geyser, Norris Geyser Basin
Colors in hydrothermal areas come from minerals and heat-loving microorganisms called thermophiles. NPS



Great Fountain Geyser, Lower Geyser Basin NPS

New Old Faithful Visitor Education Center Opens in 2010

A new Old Faithful Visitor Education Center is being built, and is planned to open in August 2010. It will provide visitors with a central location for learning about Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features and life in these unique environments.



Major funding for the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center provided by the Yellowstone Park Foundation. NPS

The new Old Faithful Visitor Education Center is being planned to meet “Gold LEED Certification”—one of the first visitor centers in the National Park System to do so. (See p. 5)

Its “green” features will include:

- ◆ Recycled materials and salvaged wood
- ◆ “Snow zones”—a natural soil moisture recharge system surrounding the building
- ◆ Locally and regionally manufactured materials
- ◆ A ventilation system in the foundation that acts as a thermal buffer to protect the sensitive geothermal area
- ◆ A multi-zone heating and cooling system that allows for a reduced heated space in winter
- ◆ Renewable resource cork flooring
- ◆ Low-flow restroom plumbing
- ◆ Use of earth-friendly cleaning supplies

Spring Wildlife Gallery

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Spring in Yellowstone is a feast for your senses. Young animals are being born all around the park, birds are returning or passing through in their timeless migration, frogs call in the ponds. Listen and look for the sights special to this time of year.



Mountain bluebirds (far left) return to Yellowstone National Park while winter still cloaks the landscape. These insect eaters feast on the beetles and other scavengers consuming animals killed by the winter. As they flit to and from perches, they look like pieces of the sky flying about.

The **mourning cloak butterfly** (center left) winters over, tucked into crevices of trees and rocks. It is often the first butterfly seen each year; look for it on a sunny, late-winter day. As spring progresses, mourning cloaks begin laying eggs on trees and shrubs.



Sandhill cranes (left) return to Yellowstone in April, usually in pairs, flying up rivers to their nesting territories. Listen for their guttural calling as they fly or forage; because they blend well with their grassland

habitat, they are heard long before seen. However, if you observe a long-legged, tall bird, look closely—it's likely to be the sandhill.

Both **grizzly and black bear cubs** were born in the deep winter month of January, while their mother still hibernated. But come March and April, they begin to venture out, accompanying their mother as she digs for roots, insects, and squirrels. Look for black bears (below, left) along the edges of trees in the Lamar and Hayden valleys, or among the trees near Mammoth and Tower. Grizzly bears are usually seen in open areas.



Bighorn sheep (below) give birth on the sheer cliffs between Tower Junction and Tower Fall. They and their lambs blend in with the columnar basalt, but be patient—sometimes just a hint of movement is all you need to finally spot them.

Orange fur makes a **bison calf** (bottom) easy to see, even from a distance. Look for them beginning in April in open country along the Lamar, Yellowstone, Firehole, and Madison rivers. Calves can keep up with the herd shortly after being born, and they are well protected by their mothers and other bison adults.



STAY SAFE!

Wild animals are dangerous. To protect yourself and wildlife, follow these guidelines any time and any place:

- ◆ Park in a turnout and make sure your car is completely off the road.
- ◆ Put your vehicle into park and engage your parking brake.
- ◆ Stay near your vehicle so you can retreat if the animal approaches.
- ◆ Do not stand in the road.
- ◆ Never surround, crowd, approach, or follow wildlife.
- ◆ Never come between mothers and their young.
- ◆ Don't block an animal's line of travel.
- ◆ Do not run or move suddenly—this may cause predators to attack.
- ◆ If other people in the area are putting you in danger, leave the scene and notify a park ranger.
- ◆ Do not ever feed wildlife, including birds.



You Can Help Preserve and Protect Yellowstone

In our increasingly crowded and developed world, Yellowstone National Park provides a source of refuge and renewal for those who enter its quiet places. The park’s magnificent wilderness areas offer a glimpse of what our continent was like when humans first gazed in wonder upon its steaming geysers, thundering waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. However, Yellowstone exists today only because generations who came before us understood its value and made its preservation a priority.

Because so many visitors who love Yellowstone want to help ensure that it stands wild and unimpaired for our future, two separate organizations have been established to support the National Park Service in this mission. The Yellowstone Park Foundation and the Yellowstone Association provide a means for visitors to contribute to Yellowstone’s preservation. Please help us protect and preserve this national treasure. Your contribution to either organization will designate you as a true friend of Yellowstone; contributors of \$1,000 or more will have their names displayed on the park’s Honor Wall at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, receiving special recognition as stewards and benefactors of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone will continue to exist as one of America’s most treasured places only if we understand its value and makes its preservation our priority.

*Protecting the Wonders and Wildlife
of Yellowstone National Park*



THE YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION



With the support of Friends of Yellowstone the Foundation funds critical Park projects such as:

- wildlife and fisheries conservation
- historic preservation
- hiking trail restoration
- new state-of-the-art Old Faithful Visitor Education Center (opening date August 2010)
- and many more

To learn more
or to donate online visit us at
www.yppf.org

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222 East Main Street, Suite 301, Bozeman, MT 59715 406.586.6303



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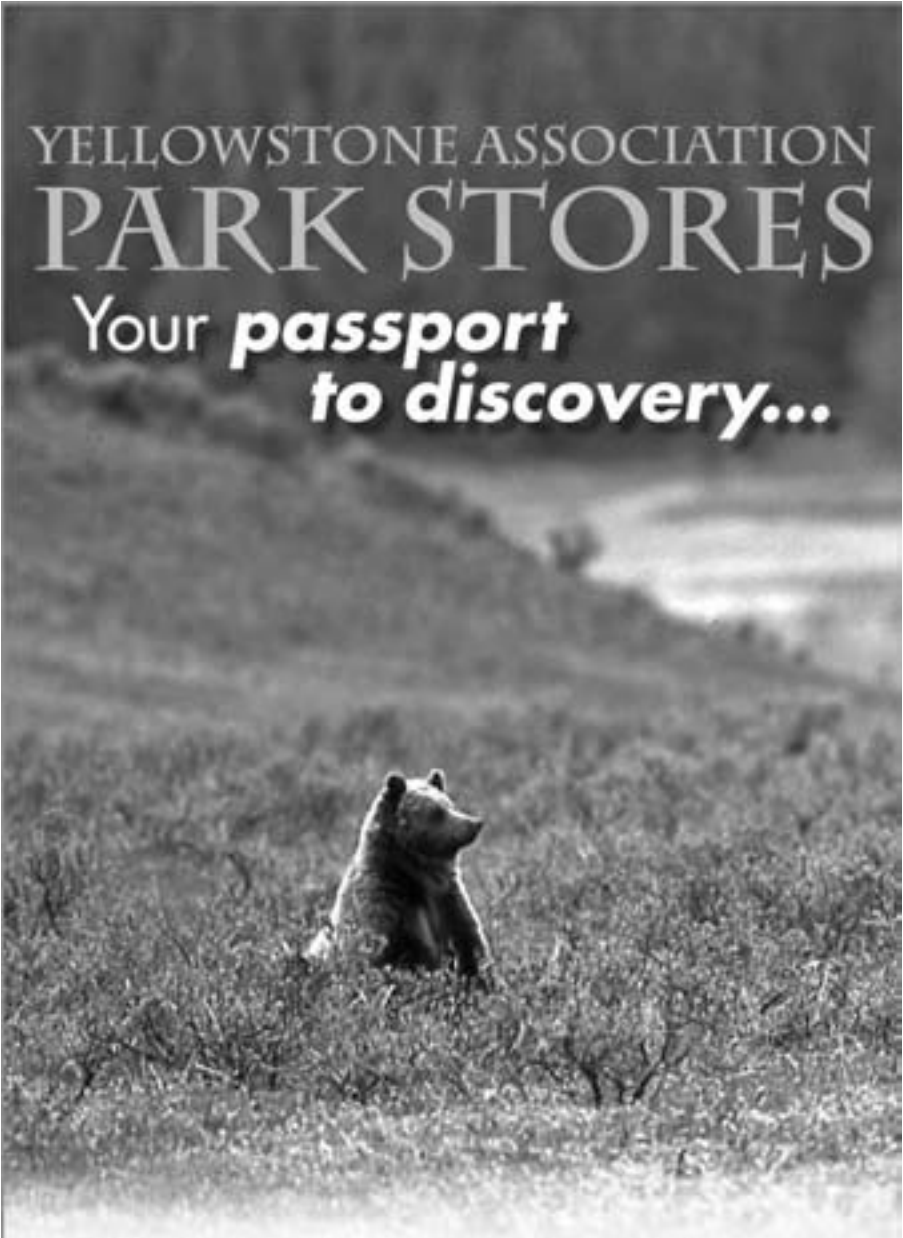
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Online at: www.YellowstoneAssociation.org



YELLOWSTONE
ASSOCIATION

Canyon • Fishing Bridge • Gardiner • Grant Village
Madison • Mammoth • Norris • Old Faithful • West Thumb

Challenges in Yellowstone

Spring 2009

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When Buffalo Roam



© C. Duckworth

During winter, bison often migrate to winter range along and outside the park's north and west boundaries. This concerns the livestock industry because some bison carry the disease brucellosis, which is a problem with cattle. A bison management plan is in place to conserve the Yellowstone bison population and minimize or avoid the risk of Yellowstone bison mixing with livestock near the park.

Hazing & Capture

Bison migrating from the park may be hazed to management zones inside or outside the park. When hazing is no longer successful, bison are captured, and may be sent to slaughter.

Vaccination

State and federal agencies have developed vaccination programs to be used at boundary capture facilities.

Bison Hunt

The state of Montana manages a public bison hunt on public lands outside Yellowstone National Park during the late fall and winter. Through the hunt, the state manages the number of bison on low-elevation winter ranges outside the park.

In addition, several tribes are exercising their treaty rights to hunt bison outside the park.

Outlook

The agencies will continue to monitor bison abundance, distribution, movement patterns, and brucellosis prevalence in the population. In addition, they will continue to advance the management program toward greater tolerance for bison on low-elevation winter range outside Yellowstone.

Winter In the Park



© C. Duckworth

In winter, Yellowstone's landscape transforms into a world of snow, ice, frost, and dazzling sunshine. Wildlife hibernate or migrate to lower elevations, where they are often visible to winter visitors. People have been drawn to the winter wonderland for decades; since 1949, they have toured the park on motorized oversnow vehicles.

Winter Use Planning

The National Park Service (NPS) works with local governments, businesses, concessioners, conservation and other interest groups, industry, visitors, and the public to build a sustainable future for winter use while preserving park resources and providing high quality visitor experience.

Goals of a Winter Use Plan

In the last twenty years, NPS has led a series of planning efforts to manage winter visitor use. For each of these efforts, NPS has had the following goals:

- ◆ Provide a high quality, safe, and educational winter experience for all visitors.
- ◆ Provide for visitor and employee health and safety.
- ◆ Preserve pristine air quality and natural soundscapes.
- ◆ Mitigate impacts to wildlife.
- ◆ Minimize adverse economic impacts to gateway communities.

NPS/Peaco

Winter Use Management

The parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway) have been consistently open for oversnow visitor use. Visitors have been able to travel via snowmobile or snowcoach to interior locations or drive their own vehicles to Mammoth from the north, continuing on from there to Lamar Valley, the Northeast Entrance, and Cooke City. NPS expects both oversnow and wheeled vehicle access to continue for the foreseeable future.

However, as long as lawsuits continue, park managers cannot fully predict the future of winter use in Yellowstone. The following will be certain: The parks will be open for winter and visitors will be able to enjoy them in a variety of ways. Additionally, since 2004 NPS has effectively addressed historic winter use issues by requiring best available technology for snowmobiles, commercial guides for all visitors, and limits on snowmobile and snowcoach numbers. Yellowstone's air quality, wildlife, and soundscapes will remain in very good to excellent condition. Finally, as lawsuits continue, NPS will continue its efforts to produce a long-term winter use plan that protects the parks and provides visitor access to the remarkable resources that make them such special places in the winter.

For the latest information, see the park's website www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteruse.htm

Wolves



NPS/Peaco

Wolves were restored to Yellowstone in 1995 and 1996, and they have flourished. Even so, their population dropped in 2008 from 171 to 124 animals. Disease killed many of the pups born last year, and adult wolves killed each other over territory disputes. Scientists expect their population will continue to wax and wane.

Meanwhile, wolves remain exciting animals to look for and observe—and spring is one of the best seasons to look for them as they travel through the park hunting. Enjoy watching them, but stay safe and be aware of how your actions can affect the animals. See pages 2 and 7 for more information about watching wildlife in Yellowstone.

Who Manages the Wolves?

The wolves in Yellowstone National Park are managed by the National Park Service. Outside park boundaries, the states of Idaho and Montana manage the wolves according to management plans approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In Wyoming, USFWS manages the wolves.

Are They an Endangered Species?

As of January 2009, the wolves of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are listed as a federally endangered species, designated an experimental and non-essential population. They were delisted in March 2008 because the biological requirement had been achieved: Three years of 30 breeding pairs across the three recovery areas. However, in July 2008, a judge ordered they be relisted because of no documented genetically effective immigration into the greater Yellowstone area, and because of problems with the Wyoming wolf management plan. Ongoing litigation and future executive orders may change this status again.

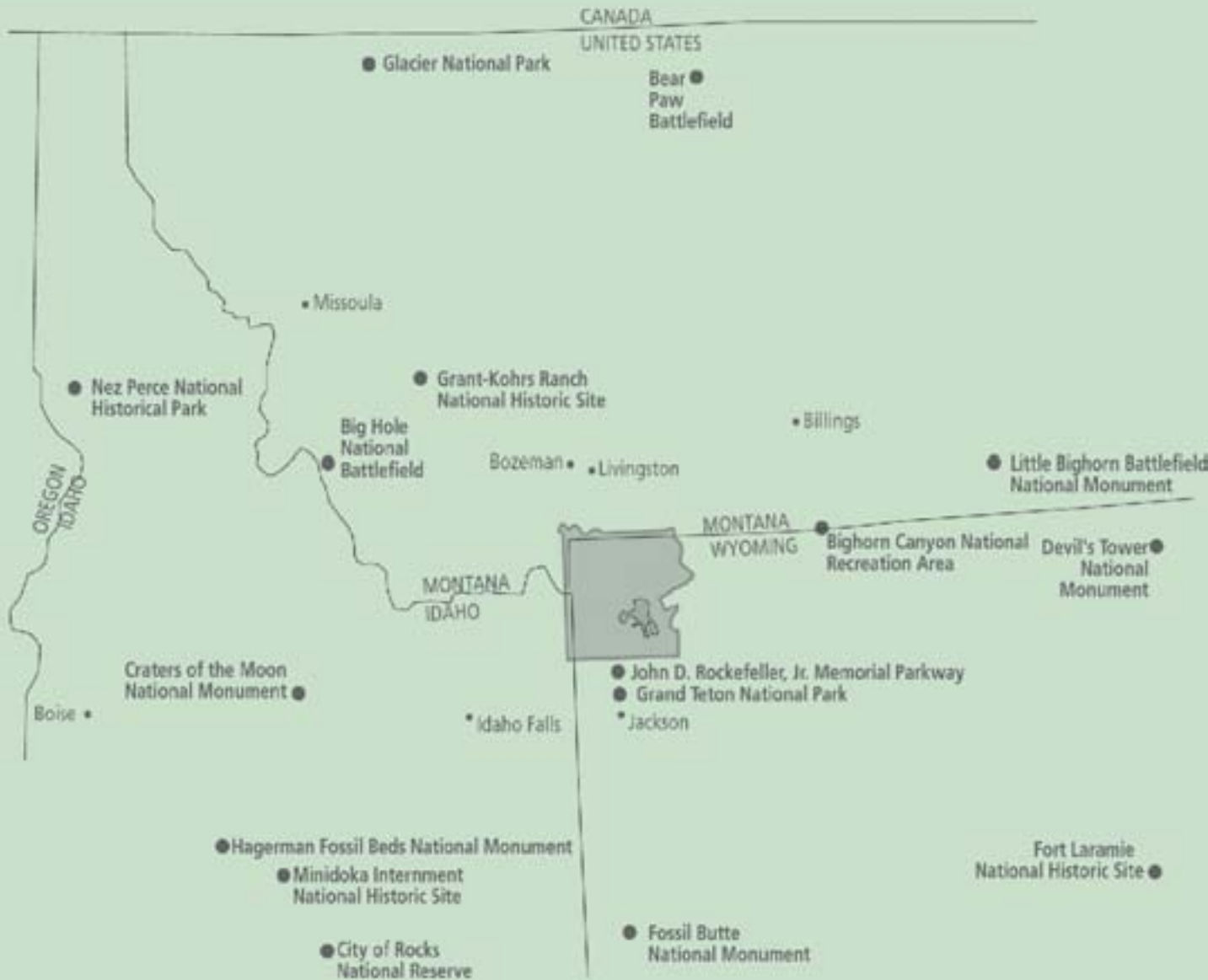
For More Information

www.nps.gov/yell

Books and other publications are available through the Yellowstone Association at its stores in visitor centers, online at www.YellowstoneAssociation.org, or by calling 406-848-2400.

NPS Sites Near Yellowstone

Discover other national parks and lesser-known NPS sites that reveal more of this region’s natural and cultural features.



Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Wide open spaces, the hard-working cowboy, his spirited cow pony, and vast herds of cattle are among the strongest symbols of the American West. Once the headquarters of a 10 million acre cattle empire, Grant-Kohrs is a working cattle ranch that preserves and commemorates the role of ranchers in American history. 406-846-3388; www.nps.gov/grko

Bear Paw Battlefield

National Historic Landmark where the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce ended. 406-357-3130; www.nps.gov/nepe/planyourvisit/bear-paw-battlefield.htm

Big Hole National Battlefield

Site of pivotal battle between the Nez Perce and U.S. Army in 1877. 406-689-3155; www.nps.gov/biho

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Sixty-mile long lake in a spectacular canyon. 406-666-2412; www.nps.gov/bica

City of Rocks National Reserve

Granite monoliths served as landmarks in 1843 for California-bound emigrants. 208-824-5519; www.nps.gov/ciro

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

A vast ocean of lava flows with scattered islands of cinder cones and sagebrush. 208-527-1300; www.nps.gov/crmo

Devil's Tower National Monument

Molten rock intrusion amidst Ponderosa pine and prairie. A sacred site for many tribes. 307-467-5283; www.nps.gov/deto

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Played central role in America's western expansion and Indian resistance to encroachment on their territories. 307-837-2221; www.nps.gov/foia

Fossil Butte National Monument

Exceptional abundance and variety of fossilized fish, insects, plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals. 307-877-4455; www.nps.gov/fobu

Glacier National Park

Like Yellowstone and Grand Teton, this park is a "crown jewel" of the National Park system; features a glaciated landscape of forests, alpine meadows, and lakes. 406-888-7800; www.nps.gov/glac

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

Protects the world's richest late Pliocene (3–4 mya) fossil deposits—over 220 species of plants and animals. 208-837-4793; www.nps.gov/hafo

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Connects Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks; named for the philanthropist who contributed to both. 307-739-3300; www.nps.gov/grte

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Traces the route of this expedition through 11 states. 402-661-1804; www.nps.gov/lecl

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Site of June 25, 1876 battle between the U.S. Army (led by General Custer) and several tribes. 406-638-3204; www.nps.gov/libi

Minidoka Internment National Historic Site

One of the ten relocation centers that held West Coast persons of Japanese ancestry (Nikkei) during World War II. 208-837-4793; www.nps.gov/miin

Nez Perce National Historic Park

Contains 38 sites along the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. 208-843-7001; www.nps.gov/nepe

Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Designates the route of the Nez Perce during their flight from the U.S. Army in 1877; includes a portion in Yellowstone. 208-476-8334; www.fs.fed.us/npnht

National Forests Near Yellowstone

Beaverhead–Deer Lodge 406-683-3913	Custer 406-657-6200
Bridger–Teton 307-739-5500	Gallatin 406-587-6701
Caribou–Targhee 208-624-3151	Shoshone 307-527-6241

Grand Teton National Park

Spring 2009

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Make time for a visit to our neighbor to the south, Grand Teton National Park. This park offers spectacular scenery and its own campgrounds, exhibits, and activities. More information is in the park newspaper, *Teewinot*, or at www.nps.gov/grte. Newspapers are available at Grand Teton visitor centers and entrance stations.

Visit the new Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center.

All dates and hours are approximate.

Campgrounds

First come, first served. For current status of campgrounds, ask at entrance stations or visitor centers in Grand Teton National Park.

Campground	Fee	Fills by:	Opens:
Colter Bay (350 sites)	\$17	Rarely fills	late May
Gros Ventre (360 sites)	\$17	Evening	early May
Jenny Lake (49 sites)	\$19	11 AM	mid-May
Lizard Creek (60 sites)	\$18	Rarely fills	early June
Signal Mt. (86 sites)	\$18	Afternoon	mid-May

Jenny Lake is open to tents only. Other campgrounds accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles (30-foot restriction at Signal Mt.). All campgrounds have modern comfort stations, but none have utility hookups. The maximum stay is 7 days at Jenny Lake, 14 days at other campgrounds, 30 days total per year.

Lodging

Make your reservations directly:

Colter Bay Cabins (opens late May)	800-628-9988
Colter Bay RV Park (opens late May)	800-628-9988
Dornan’s Spur Ranch Cabins (all year)	307-733-2522
Flagg Ranch Resort (opens mid-May)	307-543-2861 or 800-443-2311
Jackson Lake Lodge (opens mid-May)	800-628-9988
Jenny Lake Lodge (opens early June)	307-733-4647
Signal Mt. Lodge (opens mid-May)	800-672-6012
Lodging can also be found in surrounding communities.	

Information

Colter Bay Visitor Center & Indian Arts Museum—May 9 to October 12. Information, audiovisual programs, permits, and publication sales. Phone: 307-739-3594.

Flagg Ranch Information Station—early June to early September. Phone: 307-543-2372.

Jenny Lake Ranger Station (climbing information)—late May to mid-September. Phone: 307-739-3343.

Jenny Lake Visitor Center—May 15–Sept. 27. Information, publication sales. Phone: 307-739-3392.

Craig Thomas Visitor Center (Moose)—Open year-round, except December 25. Information, audiovisual programs, exhibits, permits, publication sales. Phone: 307-739-3399.

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center—May 25–Sept. 27. Sensory exhibits and orientation to the 8-mile trail network. Phone: 307-739-3654.

Telecommunications device for the deaf only (TDD): 307-739-3400.

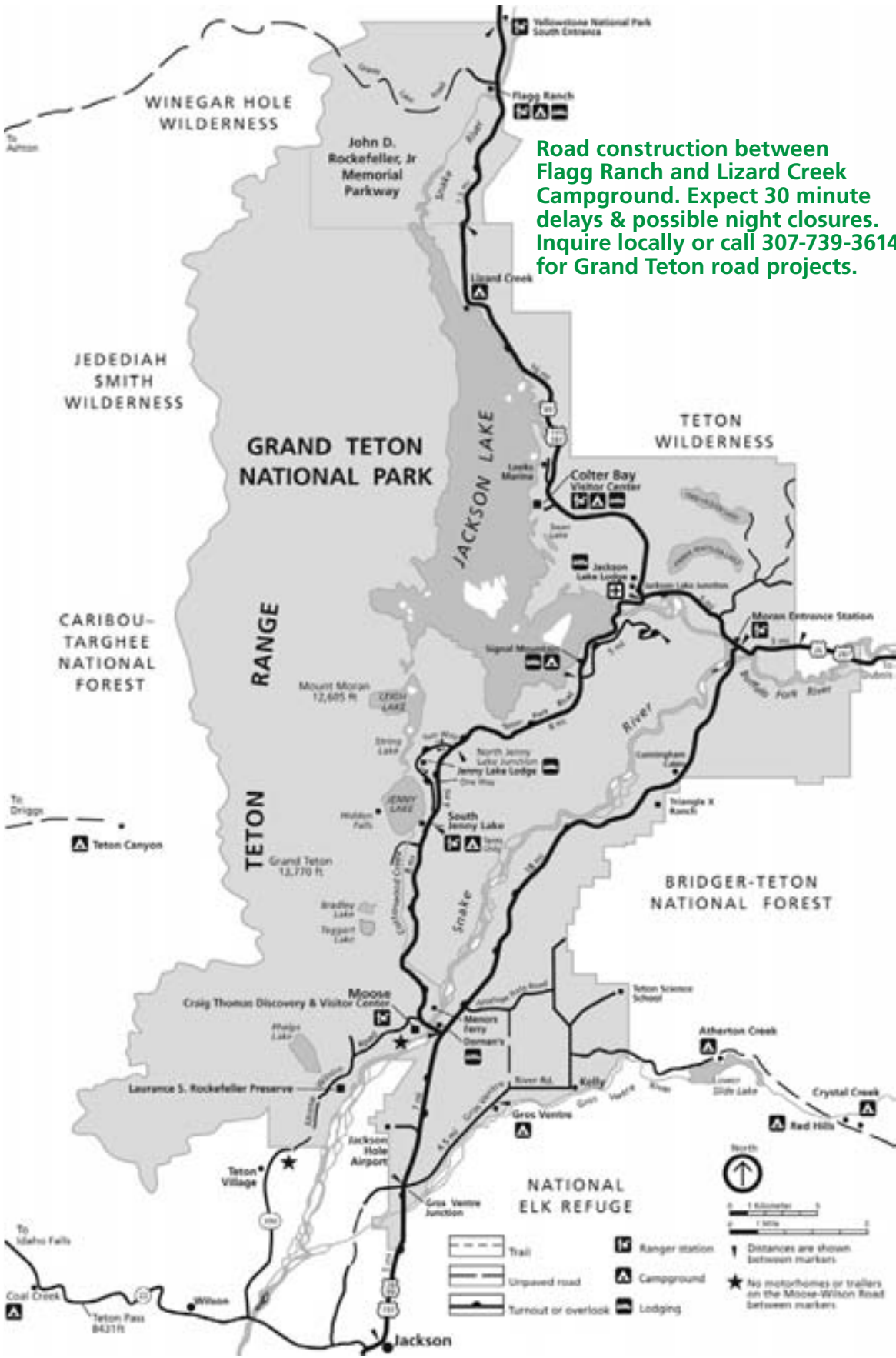
Medical Clinic

Grand Teton Clinic, located near Jackson Lake Lodge. Daily, late May to early October. Call 307-543-2514 or after hours 307-733-8002.

Emergency: dial 911.

Activities

Hiking, sightseeing, boating, floating the Snake River, horseback riding, and fishing are available depending on seasonal conditions. Backcountry camping requires a free permit from the Moose or Colter Bay visitor centers or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Boating requires a Grand Teton boating permit, sold at visitor centers. A Wyoming fishing license is required to fish in Grand Teton National Park.



Road construction between Flagg Ranch and Lizard Creek Campground. Expect 30 minute delays & possible night closures. Inquire locally or call 307-739-3614 for Grand Teton road projects.

For more information about Grand Teton National Park: call 307-739-3300 or visit the website, www.nps.gov/grte

Communities Near Yellowstone & Grand Teton

Montana

Big Sky	406-995-3000
Billings	800-735-2635
Bozeman	800-228-4224
Cooke City–Silver Gate	406-838-2495
Gardiner	406-848-7971
Livingston	406-222-0850
Red Lodge	888-281-0625
Virginia City	800-829-2969
West Yellowstone	406-646-7701

Wyoming

Cody	800-393-2639
Dubois	307-455-2556
East Yellowstone/Wapiti Valley	307-587-9595
Jackson	307-733-3316
Idaho	
Idaho Falls	866-365-6943
Eastern Idaho Visitor Information Center	800-634-3246

Services in Yellowstone

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Spring 2009

"They said they'd seen it all
in Yellowstone. We politely suggested one of our
Lodging & Learning packages. Four days later, that
same family couldn't stop talking about all
the new things they'd discovered
about the park,
and themselves.
We just smiled."



*Yellowstone,
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Experience it.*

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packages and all other information call:
866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375)
travelyellowstone.com

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BEAUTIFUL PLACES ON EARTH®

Xanterra Parks & Resorts is an authorized
concessor of the National Park Service.

Summer Adventure Packages

Yellowstone Couples Getaway
(5 nights) June 6 - October 3
\$1,729.00 per person

Once Around the Park
(June 6 - August 11)
\$1,259.00

Total Yellowstone
(5 nights) June 7 - August 30
\$1,229.00 per person

**Summer Lodging
& Learning Packages**
Naturalist-Guided daily adventures
lodging and meals included

Essential Yellowstone
(5 nights) May 16, 30, June 6, 8,
September 19 & 26 October 3, 10
\$1,039.00 per person

Trails Through Yellowstone
(4 nights) May 25 - September 21
\$719.00 per person

Yellowstone for Families
(4 nights) June 12 - August 21
Mammoth \$2,116.00 (2 adults, 2 children)
Grant \$2,195.00 (2 adults, 2 children)

Spring Wolf and Bear Discovery
(4 nights) May 3 - June 8
\$619.00 per person

Fall Wolf and Elk Discovery
(3 days) August 26 - October 7
\$619.00 per person

Old Times on the Grand Tour
(6 nights) May 24
September 13, 20 & 27
\$1,549.00 per person

Roosevelt Rendezvous
(4 nights) September 8, 12, 16
\$679.00 per person

Rates are double occupancy
and do not include tax or utility fee

XANTERRA'S LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

As an environmental leader in the hospitality industry, we serve as a role model for others. We take this role seriously. The days of recycling being "the single measure" of environmental responsibility are long gone. Today Xanterra, through our environmental management system called *Ecologix*, is incorporating sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations, from food to fuel, and from emissions reduction to renewable energy.

Our Sustainability Report is our environmental report card!

Our Sustainability Report details the environmental impacts related to our operations throughout the U.S. To do this we use our *Ecometrix*, data that specifically measure our energy and resource consumption, emissions, waste management, recycling, pollution prevention and overall sustainability efforts. To validate our findings, we enlisted a third-party environmental auditing firm; their assessment confirms the accuracy of our data.

Our Environmental Vision Goals chart our course!

Because we have accurate metrics in place, we have established our **2015 Environmental Vision Goals**. These include:

- 1) decrease fossil fuel usage by 30% based on year 2000 usage
- 2) increase usage of renewable energy to provide 7% of total electricity consumed
- 3) decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 30% based on year 2000
- 4) divert from landfill 50% of all solid waste generated
- 5) increase purchase of sustainable food items to 50% of all company-wide food expenditures
- 6) achieve companywide average fuel economy standard of 35 mpg for all passenger vehicles (under 10 persons) purchased annually
- 7) generate zero hazardous waste
- 8) decrease water usage by 25% based on year 2003

For more information on Xanterra's commitment to sustainability and social performance, we invite you to review our *Sustainability Report*, located in guest rooms and lodging front desks. The information is also available at www.Xanterra.com.

Lost & Found Call 307-344-5387 to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities; call 307-344-2109 to report or retrieve items lost in other parts of the park.

ATM 24-hour cash available at general stores at Canyon, Fishing Bridge, Grant, Mammoth, and Old Faithful Basin Upper; and at Canyon Lodge, Lake Yellowstone Hotel, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Old Faithful Inn, and Old Faithful Snow Lodge. CIRRUS and PLUS network.

Worship Services Most major denominations and interdenominational services available in summer, in the park and in communities near the park. Information on bulletin boards at campgrounds and visitor centers.

Tours The Yellowstone Association Institute and Xanterra Parks & Resorts offer guided tours throughout the park. See pages 7 & 14. For other certified guides and outfitters, including for backcountry tours, write to Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, call 307-344-7381, or visit www.nps.gov/yell

Caution: Unauthorized Tours & Guides

Make sure your guide, tour company, or other commercial service is authorized by the National Park Service. Please report unauthorized operators to a ranger at a visitor center or ranger station or to the Chief, Concessions Management, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; 307-344-2271.

Reservations For lodging, dining, camping, and activity reservations, call Xanterra Parks & Resorts, 307-344-7311, TDD 307-344-5395, or toll-free 866-439-7375. You can also make reservations at lodging front desks or activities desks.

Dinner reservations required at Grant Village Restaurant, Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room, Old Faithful Inn Dining Room.



Recycling You can recycle glass, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles with narrow necks, office paper, magazines, small propane canisters (used with camp stoves and lanterns), household batteries. See map on back page for general locations; inquire locally.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY: 911

Lodging, dining, camping, activities:
307-344-7311 or
TDD 307-344-5395

Park Information:
307-344-7381

Park Tip Line
307-344-2132

Call the tip line to report a crime or criminal activity.
Leave as much detail as you can—who, what, where,
when. Leave your name and number, or you can remain
anonymous.

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U.S. Bank contributes a percentage of every purchase to the Yellowstone Park Foundation to help fund projects that protect the wonders and wildlife of Yellowstone National Park.

Go to www.ypf.org or call 1-800-853-5576 (press "1", then ext. 8301) to sign up for your Yellowstone Park Foundation Visa® Platinum Card today!


















U.S. Bank National Association (NBA) is creditor and issuer of the Yellowstone Park Foundation Visa Platinum Card.

Card photos by Tim Murphy

Service Locations & Schedules

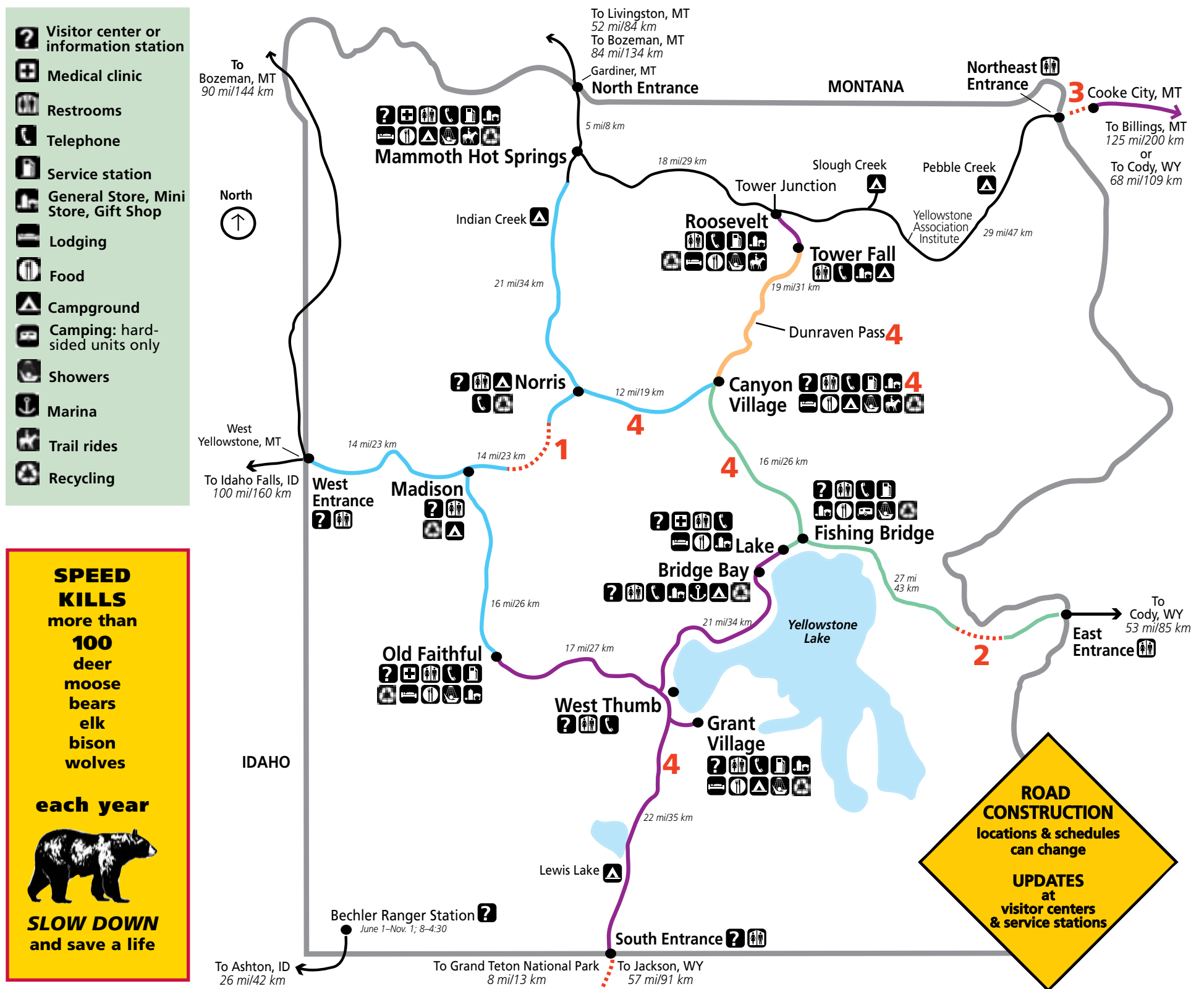
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	Canyon Village	Fishing Bridge	Grant & West Thumb	Lake & Bridge Bay	Mammoth Hot Springs	Norris	Old Faithful	Tower & Roosevelt	West Entrance & Madison
 Visitor Information Book Store <i>books, videos, maps, other educational items</i>	Visitor Education Center 5/9–22 9 AM–5 PM 5/23 & thereafter 8 AM–8 PM	Visitor Center Opens 5/23 8 AM–7 PM	Visitor Center (Grant) Opens 5/23 8 AM–7 PM Information Center (West Thumb) Opens 5/23 9 AM–5 PM	No book store here.	Albright Visitor Center through 4/16 9 AM–5 PM 4/17–5/22 9 AM–6 PM 5/23 & thereafter 8 AM–7 PM	Information Station Opens 5/23 9 AM–6 PM Museum of the National Park Ranger Opens 5/23 9 AM–5 PM	Visitor Center 4/17–5/22 9 AM–6 PM 5/23 & thereafter 8 AM–7 PM	No book store here.	West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center NPS rangers available 4/17–5/22, 8 AM–4 PM 5/23 & thereafter 8 AM–8 PM Information Station (Madison) Opens 5/23 9 AM–6 PM
 Medical clinic				May 22–Sept. 21 307-344-7241	Year-round, except for some holidays. 307-344-7965		May–Oct. 14 307-545-7325		
 Service station <i>snacks, drinks, ice</i> <i>** Credit card service at pump</i> <i>24 hours a day</i>	**Gas: May 1–Oct. 12 Repairs: May 22–Sept. 1 Wrecker: May 22–Sept. 1 Call 406-848-7548 for assistance	**Gas: May 15–Sept. 27 Repairs: May 22–Sept. 1 Wrecker: May 22–Sept. 1 LP Gas available Call 406-848-7548 for assistance	**Gas (Grant): May 22–Sept. 20 Repairs: May 22–Sept. 1 Wrecker: May 22–Sept. 1 LP Gas available Call 406-848-7548 for assistance		May 8–Oct. 5 Call 406-848-7548 for assistance		**Lower: May 1–Oct. 12 **Upper: May 23–Sept. 14 Wrecker: April–Nov. Repairs: May 22–Sept. 1 Call 406-848-7548 for assistance	June 5–Sept. 7 Call 406-848-7548 for assistance	
 General Store <i>groceries</i> <i>restaurant</i> <i>souvenirs</i> <i>camping & fishing gear</i>	May 18–Oct. 1 (also has ATM, espresso, jewelry)	May 9–Oct. 6 (also has ATM, photo processing, jewelry)	Grant May 23–Sept. 22 (also has ATM, jewelry)	Lake May 17–Sept. 3	Year-round (no restaurant; lunch available winter & early spring)		Lower: May 23–Oct. 6 Upper: May 2–Oct. 20 (also photo processing)	Tower May 16–Sept. 15 (no restaurant)	
 Outdoor Store <i>recreation gear, snacks, fast food</i> <i>souvenirs</i>	Yellowstone Adventures Apr. 18–Oct. 20			Bridge Bay May 30–Sept. 8					
 Mini Store <i>groceries, some camping & fishing gear, souvenirs</i>			Grant May 12–Oct. 6					Roosevelt June 6–Sept. 1	
 Gift shop <i>(in lodging facilities)</i>	Canyon Lodge May 29–Sept. 27		Grant Village May 22–Sept. 27	Lake Hotel May 15–Oct. 4 Lake Lodge June 10–Sept. 20	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel May 1–Oct. 5		Old Faithful Inn May 8–Oct. 11 Old Faithful Snow Lodge May 1–Oct. 18 Old Faithful Lodge May 15–Sept. 27	Roosevelt Lodge June 5–Sept. 7	
 Hotel	Canyon Lodge May 29–Sept. 13		Grant Village May 22–Sept. 27	Lake Hotel May 15–Oct. 4	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel May 1–Oct. 5		Old Faithful Inn May 8–Oct. 11 Old Faithful Snow Lodge May 1–Oct. 18		
 Cabins	Canyon Lodge May 29–Sept. 13			Lake Hotel May 15–Oct. 4 Lake Lodge June 10–Sept. 20	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel May 1–Oct. 5		Old Faithful Lodge May 15–Sept. 13 Old Faithful Snow Lodge May 1–Oct. 18	Roosevelt Lodge June 5–Sept. 7	
 Restaurant <i>(see also General Store)</i>	Canyon Lodge May 29–Sept. 13		Grant Village May 22–Sept. 27 Lake House at Grant June 5–Sept. 20	Lake Hotel May 15–Oct. 4	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel May 1–Oct. 5		Old Faithful Inn May 8–Oct. 11 Old Faithful Snow Lodge May 1–Oct. 18	Roosevelt Lodge June 5–Sept. 7	
 Cafeteria	Canyon Lodge May 29–Aug. 30			Lake Lodge June 10–Sept. 20			Old Faithful Lodge May 15–Sept. 13		
 Snacks, light meals, fast food <i>(see also stores)</i>	Picnic Shop May 29–Sept. 27			Lake Hotel Deli May 22–Oct. 4	Terrace Grill May 15–Oct. 11		Old Faithful Inn, Bear Paw Snack Shop: May 8–Oct. 11 Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Geyser Grill April 17–Nov. 1 Old Faithful Lodge Bake Shop May 15–Sept. 27		
 Campground <i>Details on p. 6</i> <i>** Reservations accepted</i>	**Canyon: 6/5–9/6 (laundry) Norris, 12 mi east, 5/15–9/28	**RV Park (hard-sided units only; laundry) 5/15–9/27	**Grant: 6/21–9/20 (laundry) Lewis Lake, 10 mi south, 6/15–11/1	**Bridge Bay: 5/29–9/13 **Fishing Bridge RV Park (hard-sided units only; laundry): 5/15–9/27	Mammoth: All year Indian Creek, 9 mi south, 6/12–9/14 Norris, 21 mi south, 5/15–9/28	Norris: 5/15–9/28	**Madison, 16 mi north, 5/1–10/25	Tower Fall, 3.5 mi south, 5/15–9/28 Slough Creek, 7 mi east, 5/22–10/31 Pebble Creek, 18 mi east, 6/12–9/28	**Madison, 5/1–10/25
 Showers	At campground	At RV park	At campground		Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel 5/1–10/5		Old Faithful Inn May 8–Oct. 11	Roosevelt Lodge June 5–Sept. 7	
   Marina Boat Tours Trail Rides	Trail Rides 6/21–8/29			Bridge Bay: Dock rental 5/22–9/13 Boat Tours 5/29–9/13	Trail Rides 5/22–9/12			Trail & Stagecoach Rides 6/5–9/6 Cookout 6/6–9/6	

YELLOWSTONE

Most services begin opening in mid-April. Check page 15 for details.



Road Opening Schedule

- Open year-round**
- April 17**
Mammoth & West Entrance to Old Faithful; Norris to Canyon
- May 1**
Canyon Junction to Lake to East Entrance
- May 8**
Old Faithful to South Entrance & Lake to West Thumb (earlier if conditions allow); Tower Junction to Tower Fall; Cooke City to Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (if conditions allow)
- May 22**
Tower Fall to Canyon Junction; Beartooth Pass (if conditions allow)

Road Construction

- 1 Grand Loop Road, Norris-Madison: Gibbon Canyon**
April 17—May 22: Expect 30-minute delays.
May 26–August 16:
Open 8 AM–10 PM: expect 30-minute delays
Closed 10 PM–8 AM
August 17: ROAD CLOSURES for the rest of the season.
 - 2 East Entrance Road**
May 1–Nov. 1, open with half-hour delays Monday–Friday, but no weekend or holiday work.
 - 3 Beartooth Highway (US 212)**
For construction updates on this highway *only*, call 888-285-4636.
Northeast Entrance through Cooke City:
May 26–September 25, open with half-hour delays Monday–Friday, but no weekend or holiday work.
Milepost 25–43.1 (state line): June–November, open but expect delays.
 - 4 Pavement Preservation Projects**
Each project lasts 2–4 weeks; expect 30-minute delays and pilot vehicles:
 - south of Grant Village
 - Canyon area—Chittenden Bridge on South Rim Drive
 - Grand Loop Road, Canyon–Lake
 - Norris to Canyon
 - Dunraven Pass
- Grand Teton National Park**
Road construction in northern part; expect 30 minute delays and possible night closures.
For construction updates on this project only, call 307-739-3614.

This park newspaper is funded by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and a generous donation from the Yellowstone Association.

www.nps.gov/yell • www.YellowstoneAssociation.org • www.TravelYellowstone.com

Park Information: 307-344-7381 (TDD: 307-344-2386) • Emergency—Dial 911 • Road updates: 307-344-2117