**1st Edition** 

Pr

# Welcome to Yellowstone National Park

YELLOWSTONE IS A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER. Preserved within its boundaries 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.

Use this visitor guide, combined with the official brochure map and free park app (see page 2), to plan a Yellowstone adventure that is:

- SAFE. Yellowstone is very different from your home and can be life-threateningly dangerous. Your safety is your responsibility. Read the safety information throughout this guide and take it seriously.
- SUCCESSFUL. There is so much to do and see in Yellowstone. Explore things to do on pages 4–7, learn about thermal features and wildlife on pages 8–9, find details for developed areas of the park on pages 10–14, and double-check road openings/closures and construction on the back page.

• **RESPECTFUL.** The experiences you have in Yellowstone were made possible by the care of those who came before you. Extend this same courtesy to those who will come after you. **Follow all park rules**, which are designed to protect both you and the park.

The park is assisted in fulfilling its mission by its official nonprofit partner, **Yellowstone Forever**. Proceeds from Yellowstone Forever educational bookstores, Institute, and philanthropic efforts support priority park projects and visitor education. **Find more information at Yellowstone.org or call (406) 848-2400.** 

Bison graze near Roosevelt Arch at the park's North Entrance

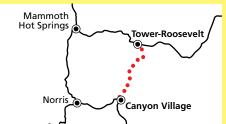


SEASONAL ROAD OPENING All park roads except the road from the North to Northeast entrances are closed to automobiles through April 15.

Weather permitting, park roads will begin opening in stages starting **April 16.** 

TOWER TO CANYON ROAD CLOSED The road between Tower-Roosevelt and Canyon Village is CLOSED all year.

**MOUNT WASHBURN TRAILS CLOSED** All trails to the top of Mount Washburn will be closed.



# **COVID-19 Safety Alert**

The National Park Service follows CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Check locally, on the park website, and in the park app for updates and changes in park operations. Thank you for helping to keep yourself and others safe and healthy.



Wearing a mask is required in all common areas in buildings owned, rented, or leased by the National Park Service, including, but not limited to, park visitor centers, administrative offices, lodges, gift shops, and restaurants. Masks are required outdoors where physical distancing cannot reasonably be maintained. Masks are not required for those under the age of two or when actively eating or drinking.



**Practice social distancing**. Maintain at least 6 feet (1.8 m) of distance between you and others.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer.

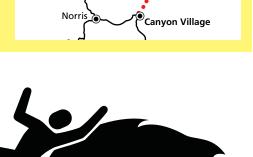
Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

If you feel sick, do not visit the park.

# Keep Wildlife Wild

Yellowstone is an incredible place to view wildlife. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park in 1872 are here today: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep.

- Wildlife are dangerous.
- Do not approach, encircle, follow, or feed any animal.
- Bison, bears, and elk injure and kill people.
- Stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves.
- Stay at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals, including bison and elk.
- If an animal moves closer to you, move away to maintain the appropriate distance.
- Do not stop on or block a road.
- Use pullouts; stay in your car to watch animals.
- Store food and trash securely. Backpacks are not secure.
- Do not feed any animals, even birds and squirrels.





Yellowstone National Park National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Emergency Information TTY **Park Entrance Radio** 

**Dial 911** 307-344-7381 307-344-2386 1610 AM

Park Tip Line

307-344-2132

To report a crime or criminal activity. Leave as much detail as you can. Remain anonymous, or leave a name and number.

#### NPS Yellowstone National Park App



Plan and enrich your visit with the official, free NPS Yellowstone National Park App. Digitally explore the

world's first national park-by map or by topic of interest. Discover the natural and cultural stories in context with their locations. Find the information you need about visitor centers, events, lodging, places to eat and shop, and services throughout the park. Download the app and app content before you begin your adventure, as cell service and Wi-Fi are limited in Yellowstone

Follow @YellowstoneNPS () 🖸 🔽 🖸

## **Facilities and Services** Medical Services **&** Accessibility

## Yellowstone emergency response and ambulance service

Call 911

Text 911 is not available in Yellowstone.

**Medcor** provides medical care, from emergencies to minor needs, at:

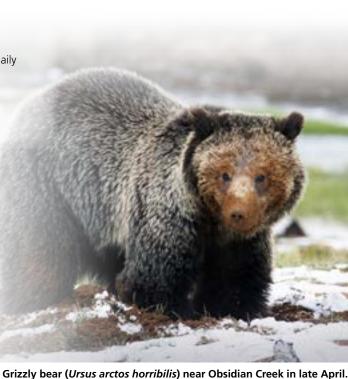
- Mammoth Clinic Year-round
- 307-344-7965
- Lake Clinic
- 5/28-9/19 8:30a-8:30p daily 307-242-7241
- Old Faithful Clinic 5/14–10/1 7a–7p daily 307-545-7325

#### Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center

and other area hospitals provide air evacuation and trauma care.

A **printed guide** with accessibility information is available at visitor centers and on the park website (go.nps.gov/YELLaccess).

Qualified service animals are welcome throughout the park and in all park facilities. However, they must be leashed and under your control at all times.



# Cell Service

Cell phone service is very limited in the park and surrounding areas. General cell coverage areas are shown on the map on the back page of this guide.

Emergency 911 service by cell phone is only available in coverage areas. Text 911 is not available in Yellowstone.

During peak hours and periods of heavy visitation, the cellular network may be very slow. Your provider may or may not roam on networks in Yellowstone.

As a courtesy to others, silence your mobile device while enjoying Yellowstone.

# 🗟 Wi-Fi

Available for free: • Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs

Data speeds are very limited outside of Mammoth Hot Springs.

## Lodging, Dining, and Tours As one of Yellowstone's official concession companies, Yellowstone National Park Lodges offers lodging, dining, camping, and a variety of tours and activities. Visit YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com for the most up-to-date information, which may change due to COVID-19. For reservations and information, ask at park hotels, or contact Yellowstone National Park Lodges: Phone 307-344-7311, 866-439-7375 TDD 307-344-5395 Online YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com Reserve-YNP@Xanterra.com Email PO Box 165 Mail Yellowstone, WY 82190 Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel

# Safety and Regulations



## Watch Wildlife Safely

Yellowstone offers wildlife watching opportunities that are unparalleled in the lower 48 states. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park are here today: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. You might also see a variety of birds, including bald eagles.

#### Looking for Wildlife?

- To conserve energy, most wildlife are active in the cool of **dawn or dusk**.
- Animals are everywhere in the park, but it is easier to see them in **open meadows and sagebrush** than in dense forest.
- Find a place with a broad view for your **binoculars or spotting scope**, and be prepared to wait.

- Protect Yourself and the Animals. Obey Park Rules.
  Stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals, including bison and elk.
- If an animal moves closer to you, move away to maintain the appropriate distance.
- Do not surround, crowd, or disrupt any animal's path of movement.
- If other visitors put you or wildlife in danger, **leave the area** and notify a park ranger.
- **Spotlighting**—viewing animals with artificial light is illegal.
- Calling to attract wildlife is illegal. You may not bugle to elk, howl at wolves, or make bird calls of any kind.
- Tracking wildlife with electronic equipment is not permitted.



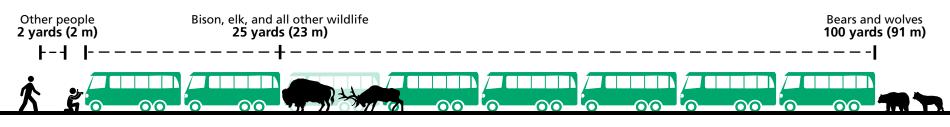
## Store Food Securely

**Do not feed any wildlife,** including small mammals and birds. Eating human food is unhealthy and encourages aggressive behavior.

All food, trash, and scented items must be kept inaccessible to bears at all times. Tents, truck beds, and picnic tables are not secure. In some areas, ravens have learned to unzip packs and scatter the contents. None of these items, even if clean and empty, may be left unattended at any time:

- Water and beverage
   containers
- Cooking or eating utensils
- Stoves and grills
- Coolers and ice chests
- Garbage, bagged or not
- Food, including condiments, even if in containers
- Cosmetics and toiletries
- Pet food and bowls
- Pails, buckets, wash basins

## Enjoy watching Yellowstone's animals but STAY SAFE. They are WILD and DANGEROUS.



## 🕱 Drones

Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft (drones) on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service is prohibited.

# Lost and Found

**Call 307-344-5387 to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities.** In other parts of the park, call 307-344-2109 or look online: go.nps.gov/**lost-and-found**.

# 🖬 Firearms

**Firearms are allowed in national parks pursuant to state and federal regulations.** They are prohibited in facilities where signs are posted, such as visitor centers, government offices, and some concession operations. Discharge of firearms is prohibited. Possession and use of weapons, such as air guns, bows and arrows, spears, and slingshots, is also prohibited. Details are available at go.nps.gov/yell-laws.

## Pets

**Pets are not allowed on trails or boardwalks, in the backcountry, or in hydrothermal basins.** Where allowed, pets must be leashed and remain within 100 feet (30.5 m) of a road or parking area.

Do not leave a pet unattended, tied to an object, or without adequate food, water, shade, ventilation, or other basic needs. Owners must bag and dispose of pet waste. We recommend that someone in your group remain with your pet at all times to personally ensure their well being.

# Things to Do ☑ Camping

Yellowstone offers 12 campgrounds with over 2,000 sites.

In early spring, Mammoth Campground is the only campground open in the park and is first-come, first-served.

During the park's busy season, from the beginning of May through the fall, many campsites can be reserved ahead of time. Due to high demand, **reserva**tions are highly recommended.

First-come, first-served sites are available during the busy season at Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, and Pebble Creek campgrounds.

### No Overflow Camping

There are no overflow camping areas available in Yellowstone. No camping or overnight vehicle parking is allowed in pullouts, parking areas, picnic grounds, or any place other than a designated campground. Additional camping may be available in neighboring communities.

#### Check-In and Check-Out

Registration desks at Yellowstone National Park Lodges campgrounds are open 7 am to 10 pm during peak season, and 8 am to 9 pm during early and late season. Check-out at reservable campgrounds is 11 am.

### 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.

#### Discounts

Holders of Senior and Access passes receive a 50 percent discount on camping fees except at Fishing Bridge RV Park.

#### **Quiet Hours**

From 10 pm to 6 am, no loud audio devices or other noise disturbances are allowed.

### **Group Camping**

Group camping (tents only) is available at Bridge Bay, Grant, and Madison for organized groups with a designated leader. Fees range from \$136 to \$399 plus tax and utility fee per night, depending on group size. Advance reservations are required at **307-344-5437** or **ynpsa@xanterra.com**.

#### Food Storage Boxes (see right)

Available at each campsite at Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, Mammoth, Norris, Pebble Creek, and Slough Creek campgrounds. Many campsites in other campgrounds are also equipped with bear-proof storage boxes.



## **Campground Features**

- Rate does not include tax or utility pass-through
- Accessible sites available
- Flush toilets

2S

DS

- Vault toilets
- Pay laundry onsite
- Two showers included each night Dump station
- Generators allowed 8 am to 8 pm



## Campfires

are allowed only in designated grills or rings in park campgrounds, some picnic areas, and specific backcountry campsites. Fully extinguish all campfires—they should be cool to the touch—before leaving them.

Campgrounds							
In Order of Opening	Reservation Status	Dates	Rate	Sites	Elevation (ft/m)	Features	RV sites
Mammoth Winter operations	First-come, first-served	Jan 1 – Apr 30 Oct 16 – Dec 31	\$25	38	6,200 ft (1,890 m)	A, F, G	Most are pull-through
Mammoth Summer operations	All sites reservable recreation.gov	May 1 – Oct 15	\$25	85	6,200 ft (1,890 m)	A, F, G	Most are pull-through
Madison	All sites reservable 307-344-7311	May 14 – Oct 17	\$27 *	278	5,800 ft (2,070 m)	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability
Canyon	All sites reservable 307-344-7311	May 21 – Sep 19	\$32 *	273	7,900 ft (2,410 m)	A, F, L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability
Bridge Bay	All sites reservable 307-344-7311	Jun 11 – Sep 6	\$27 *	432	7,800 ft (2,285 m)	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability
Indian Creek	First-come, first-served	Jun 11 – Sep 13	\$20	70	7,300 ft (2,225 m)	A, V	10 sites are 35 ft 35 sites are 30 ft
Pebble Creek	Some sites reservable recreation.gov	Jun 15 – Sep 27	\$20	27	6,900 ft (2,100 m)	A, V	Some long pull-throughs
Slough Creek	All sites reservable recreation.gov	Jun 15 – Oct 12	\$20	15	5,260 ft (1,905 m)	A, V	14 sites are 30 ft walk first to assess sites
Lewis Lake	First-come, first-served	Jun 15 – Nov 7	\$20	85	7,800 ft (2,285 m)	A, V	All sites are 25 ft or less
Grant Village	All sites reservable 307-344-7311	Jun 18 – Sep 12	\$32 *	430	7,800 ft (2,285 m)	A, F, L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability
Norris					CLOSED		
Fishing Bridge RV Park					CLOSED		
Tower Fall					CLOSED		



# Things to Do



# ▲ Backcountry Camping

**Overnight backcountry camping is only allowed in designated sites and requires a permit.** Detailed information on backcountry permits, fees, and advanced reservations is available online: go.nps.gov/**YELLbackcountry**.

Permits are free prior to Memorial Day.

From Memorial Day through September 10, a per-person, per-night fee applies:

- Backpackers and boaters: \$3 per person per night Group maximum \$15 per night
- Groups with stock animals: \$5 per person per night

For current trail conditions visit: go.nps.gov/**YELLbackcountryreport**.



## Horses, Mules, and Other Stock Animals

Traveling in the Yellowstone backcountry with horses, mules, or llamas is an exciting way to see the park. By their very nature, these large animals have the potential to leave great impacts on the land.

**Permits are required for both day rides and overnight trips.** To get a permit and plan a safe, enjoyable, low-impact trip, contact a backcountry office or look online at go.nps.gov/**YELLhorseride**.

- Trails typically open for stock use July 1. Some trails may open earlier or later depending on trail conditions.
- Proof of a negative Coggins test is required.
- Hay is prohibited in the backcountry, and weedfree hay restrictions are enforced in other areas.
- Stock may not be left at trailheads or kept in front-country, drive-in campgrounds overnight.



## 🖌 Fishing

General fishing season opens May 29 and closes November 7, 2021. Some areas remain closed until June 15. Fishing permits are required in Yellowstone; state-issued fishing permits are not valid within the park. Anglers 16 years or older need a permit; younger children can fish for free with a permitted adult.

Fishing regulations in Yellowstone protect the unique values of the park ecosystem and conserve native fish species. Copies of the complete park regulations are available wherever permits are sold and online at go.nps.gov/**fish**.

Possession limits and closures vary throughout the park. Anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations in the area they are fishing. Anglers are also responsible for knowing how to tell the difference between species. **Native fish must be released unharmed back into the water immediately.** These include:

- Arctic grayling
- Cutthroat trout
- Mountain whitefish

#### These tackle and gear restrictions apply:

- Hooks must be barbless.
- Tackle and lures must be non-toxic. Lead tackle is not allowed.
- Bait is prohibited.
- Felt-soled footwear is not permitted.



# Swimming

Park waters are swift and cold.

- Swimming in hot springs or their runoff is prohibited.
- Swimming in park rivers is not recommended. Currents can be dangerously strong and fast.
- Swimming in Yellowstone lake is not recommended. Average lake temperature is approximately 41°F (5°C).



## 🖴 Boating

The boating season opens May 29 and closes November 7, 2021. All watercraft (motorized boats, non-motorized boats, and float tubes) must have a permit and be inspected for aquatic invasive species by park staff. Any watercraft suspected of harboring AIS will be subject to a non-chemical decontamination treatment.

Aquatic Invasive Species are nonnative plants and animals that can cause irreversible harm to the ecosystem. New Zealand mudsnails, whirling disease, and lake trout have already resulted in loss of native fish or closure of some park areas.

Watercraft users and anglers are asked to inspect all items that may come in contact with park waters, ensuring that they are clean, drained, and dry.

Motorized boating is allowed on Lewis Lake and most of Yellowstone Lake. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most other lakes. Only one river is open to non-motorized boating: the Lewis River channel between Lewis and Shoshone lakes.

If you plan to boat in the park, familiarize yourself with Yellowstone National Park boating regulations and information about inspections and permits, available online at go.nps.gov/**YELLboating**.

#### BOAT PERMIT AND AIS INSPECTION LOCATIONS Motorized and non-motorized watercraft (including angler float tubes):

- Bridge Bay Ranger Station
- Grant Village Backcountry Office
- Lewis Lake Ranger Station
- Angler float tubes only:
- Locations listed above
- Northeast Entrance Station
- Bechler Ranger Station

For more information, visit go.nps.gov/**YELLboating** or call **406-581-9040** (Grant AIS inspector) or **406-823-9006** (Lake AIS inspector).

### 🗯 Certain Boats Banned

Boats with sealed internal water ballast tanks are temporarily banned in the park to minimize the risk of introducing aquatic invasive species.

# Things to Do Day Hiking

More than 1,000 miles of hiking trails wind through Yellowstone National Park. Whether you hike for half a mile or more than 10, the backcountry can be an escape from the crowds and a chance to get in touch with the wilderness that Yellowstone preserves. Find hikes using the free park app (see page 2) or at go.nps.gov/**YELLdayhikes**. go.nps.gov/**YELLbackcountryreport** has information on seasonal closures and trail conditions. Be prepared for wildlife encounters, hike in groups of three or more, and carry bear spray on all hikes.

#### **Hiking in Bear Country**

Hiking in bear habitat has inherent risks. You are likely to be safer if you stay on roads and official trails, but your safety cannot be guaranteed. Federal regulations require you to stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears. Learn more: go.nps.gov/bearspray.



Bear spray is available for purchase in Yellowstone

where stores are open.

Bear spray cannot be taken on airplanes or thrown in the trash. Canisters can be recycled in the park. Check locally or online for locations.



- BE ALERT FOR BEARS.
- MAKE NOISE in areas with limited visibility.
- CARRY BEAR SPRAY, one can with each adult, and know how to use it.
- HIKE IN GROUPS of three or more people.
- DO NOT RUN;
- back away slowly.





# Photography

Yellowstone is one of the best places in the world to photograph wildlife.

The Name of the Game is Patience To get the best shot, you will spend more time waiting and observing than taking photos. Look for patterns in animal behavior that can help you get a great shot. You may have to wait a while, so be ready.

#### Know Your Camera's Limits

A cell phone camera will not be able to capture the same resolution and detail as a more advanced standalone camera with large lenses. Good photography isn't about getting close to the animal for a close-up. It's about having the right equipment for the job.

# Stay Safe Behind and in Front of the Camera

Photographers in Lamar Valley

An unusual vantage point can add drama to your image, but you don't want to add the drama of a hospital visit to your trip. **Never sacrifice safety for a photograph.** 

• Be Aware of Your Surroundings Stay behind fences and guard rails. Never turn your back on wild animals.

• Keep Children Close to You at All Times

Never try to pose them with wildlife. • Stay Out of the Road

Do not stop your vehicle in the road or stand in the roadway. Do not block any portion of the road with tripods, chairs, or other objects. Do not block the free flow of traffic.

# 🐱 Bicycling

Bicycling, including the use of e-bikes, is permitted on established public roads, parking areas, and designated routes. Bicycles are subject to the same traffic rules as automobiles and are prohibited on trails and boardwalks.

Park roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders, so **regulations require cyclists to ride single file**, and we strongly recommend wearing a helmet and high-visibility clothing.

## Smoking Is Prohibited

in geyser basins, on trails and boardwalks, in buildings, or within 25 feet (7.6 m) of building entrances. Road elevations range from 5,300 to 8,860 ft (1,615 to 2,700 m), and services and facilities are far apart—typically 20 to 30 miles (37 to 56 km). During April, May, and June, high snowbanks may make travel more dangerous.

Find information on the park website at go.nps.gov/**YELLbicycling**.

### Removing or possessing natural or cultural resources (like wildflowers, antlers, rocks, and arrowheads) is strictly prohibited.

6 Yellowstone Visitor Guide

# Things to Do



# Become a Junior Ranger

If you're age 4 or older, you can become a Yellowstone Junior Ranger! This program is a way to introduce children—and those young at heart—to the natural wonders of the park as well as their own role in preserving these wonders for the future.



# **Explore Park Heritage**

Opportunities to connect to the past are everywhere in Yellowstone. Visit Mammoth Hot Springs to walk the self-guiding trail around Fort Yellowstone, which chronicles the US Army's role in protecting the park. Other historic sites include the Norris Museum, Obsidian Cliff, and the Old Faithful Inn and Historic District.

The Heritage and Research Center (above) is located just beyond the North Entrance in Gardiner, Montana. This facility is home to Yellowstone's museum collection, archives, research library, archeology lab, and herbarium. Open by appointment only.



# **Support Your Park**



Yellowstone Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Their mission of engagement and support through philanthropy and education for the park will ensure Yellowstone remains for generations to come. Programs about wildlife, plants, geology, and history are perfect for curious adults and families who want to spend a day or more exploring the park with a knowledgeable guide. To learn more, visit Yellowstone.org.

# **Authorized Guides**

Many authorized guides and outfitters are ready to show you the wonders of Yellowstone, and each has a unique approach. Make sure that your guide, tour company, or other commercial service is fully authorized by the park. Authorized providers are listed on the park website at go.nps.gov/YELLtours.

Report unauthorized operators to a park ranger, or contact Concessions Management at 307-344-2271.



# required for certain activities

including organized gatherings like weddings or church services, public assemblies and demonstrations, some commercial activities like commercial travel, and some types of filming and photography. For more

# Make the Most of Your Visit

Yellowstone encompasses more than 2.2 million acres, most of it beyond the reach of roads. One could dedicate their entire life to experiencing the park and still never see it all. Here are suggestions for making the most of the time you do have.

#### Tour early in the day to avoid crowds.

Most people tour the park from 10 am to 6 pm. Wildlife are most active at sunrise and sunset; arriving before 8 am improves your chances of observing animals during their active periods. Park entrance gates are open 24 hours a day.

#### Visit a hidden gem.

Take a day hike, or stroll one of our historic walking tours at Fort Yellowstone or Old Faithful. Explore nearby national park units, national forests, state forests, and state parks. The region offers a variety of public lands for recreation and enjoyment.

#### Only one day here?

- Drive to the Old Faithful area and walk around the Upper Geyser Basin.
- Visit Old Faithful and one other hydrothermal area, like Norris, West Thumb, or Fountain Paint Pots. Follow boardwalks and maintained trails to witness hot springs, mudpots, fumaroles, and geysers.
- Begin in Hayden or Lamar valleys to look for some of the park's large animals. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope, and enjoy animals from a safe distance.
- For a break from the road, consider one or two moderate day hikes. Always carry rain gear, extra food and water, bear spray, and other emergency equipment when venturing into the backcountry.
- Have a picnic. Unpack your basket at any of the 51 picnic areas throughout the park.

#### Two or more days?

- Explore one theme, such as geology, in depth. For example, visit Mammoth Hot Springs to see travertine formations and view the sedimentary layers of Mount Everts, then drive through terrain shaped by glaciers to the Tower-Roosevelt area.
- Visit Yellowstone Lake, the largest high-elevation lake in the lower 48 states. Take in the spectacular views of West Thumb and the Absaroka Mountains from its shores. Explore the hot springs, mud pots, and geysers of West Thumb Geyser Basin. Hike one of the local trails, such as the Scenic Lake Overlook near West Thumb.
- Slow down and try your hand at capturing the beauty of Yellowstone through journaling, painting, or simply observing.

# **Famously Hot Features**

Yellowstone was established in 1872 as the world's first national park primarily because of its unparalleled collection of geysers, hot springs, mudpots, and steam vents.

**Fumaroles**, or steam vents, are the hottest hydrothermal features in the park. They are easier to see in cool weather.

**Geysers** erupt with steaming hot water. Variations in each geyser's underground reservoir determine whether it is regular and predictable—like Daisy Geyser in the Upper Geyser Basin—or irregular like Steamboat Geyser in Norris Geyser Basin.

**Hot springs** are the most common hydrothermal features in the park. They vary from frothing mochalike boiling water to clear and calm pools of tremendous depth.

**Mudpots** are acidic features with a limited water supply. Their consistency and activity vary with the seasons and precipitation.

**Travertine terraces** are found at Mammoth Hot Springs, where the interactions of water and lime-stone create chalk-white travertine.

**Stay on Boardwalks** and designated trails. Do not touch any thermal features, and keep foreign objects out of springs. It can be windy, so cinch your hats, and secure your items.

# How Faithful is Old Faithful? How do geysers work?

Since its first documentation in 1870, Old Faithful has been one of the more predictable geysers. Over time, the average interval between Old Faithful's eruptions has increased or decreased due to changes in its plumbing from ongoing processes and earthquakes. The Hebgen Lake Earthquake (1959) caused an increase in the time between eruptions.

The average interval between eruptions at Old Faithful Geyser is 94 minutes ± 10 minutes, with intervals ranging from 54 to 114 minutes.



**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 be more than twice as hot as the surface boiling point of 199°F (93°C). The surrounding pressure also increases with depth, similar to the ocean. Increased pressure exerted by the enormous weight of the overlying rock and water prevents the water from boiling as it heats up.

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 system cools.

Yellowstone's geyser basins contain fountain- and cone-type geysers. Fountain-type geysers shoot water in various directions from a pool of water. Cone-type geysers like Old Faithful erupt in a concentrated jet of water from inside a rock formation.

# Some Like It Hot

Descendants of the first life forms to evolve on Earth live in the extremely hot, sometimes acidic, habitats in and around hydrothermal features. The heat-loving microorganisms, called thermophiles, survive and thrive in Yellowstone's active volcanic environment.

Norris Geyser Basin

Nourished by energy and chemical building blocks available in the hot springs, the microbes build vividly-colored communities like those you see in the photo above. The colors vary depending on the types of microbes, the pH (acidity or alkalinity), temperature of the feature, and exposure to sunlight.

Millions of individual microbes can connect into long strands called filaments. Some filaments tangle, forming mats. Flowing water brings other microbes, organic matter, and minerals that add to the mat. Mats can be thin as tissue paper or thick as lasagna. Because of their fragility, they must not be touched.

Dozens of types of microbes from all three domains of life can exist in these mats, from Archea in the hottest, most acidic features to the more widespread Bacteria and Eukarya.

Scientists continue to study the many mysteries of thermophiles and their extreme habitats in the living laboratories of Yellowstone's thermal areas and features.

# Wild Lands and Wildlife

## Wolves in Yellowstone

Yellowstone is the site of one of the most ambitious and controversial wildlife restoration projects in the world. Although wolves once roamed from the Arctic tundra to Mexico, loss of habitat and extermination programs led to their demise throughout most of the United States by the early 1900s. In 1973, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed the gray wolf (Canis lupus) as an endangered species and designated the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as one of three recovery areas. From 1995 to 1997, 41 wild wolves were released in Yellowstone.

## **Keep Wolves Wild**

- If you see wolves on or near the roadway:
- 1. Slow down and move to the side of the road farthest from the wolves. Continue slowly moving as the wolves pass by.
- 2.Do not stop within 100 yards (91 m) of the wolves. If conditions force you to stop, continue slowly moving within 10-15 seconds.
- 3.If a wolf begins moving toward you, leave the area immediately.

Never feed a wild animal. Wolves that eat human food even once will try to get food again. These wolves then have to be lethally removed.

If a wolf approaches closely, report the sighting to park rangers.

# **Bringing Up Bear Cubs**

Both grizzly and black bear cubs are born in the deep winter months while their mother hibernates. In April and May, they begin to venture out with their mother as she digs for roots, insects, and squirrels. Cubs stay with their mother for two to three years before setting out on their own.

Look for black bears along the edges of wooded areas in the Lamar and Hayden valleys or among the trees near Mammoth and Tower. Grizzly bears are usually seen in open areas.

See page 6 for information about safely recreating in bear country.



Since then, the Yellowstone Wolf Project has yielded more than two decades of discoveries on wolf behavior, predator-prey relationships, wildlife disease management, and ecological complexity.

To dig into the details of wolves in Yellowstone, visit go.nps.gov/wolves.

Signs of Change

The National Park Service anticipates that climate change will create significant challenges to the preservation of park resources, infrastructure, and visitor experience. Within Yellowstone, scientists expect ecosystems to change due to increasing temperature, decreasing snowpack, earlier runoff, and a longer growing season. Some observed and expected effects of climate change are:

- · Alpine habitats will decrease in area, negatively affecting species that depend on them.
- The number and intensity of wildfires is expected to increase in Yellowstone and across the Western US, resulting in more area burned over time. This will have a big impact on vegetation and vulnerable buildings.
- Mountain pine beetle infestations may increase, driven by milder winters and a longer season for more reproductive cycles, causing more mortality in certain forest types.
- Hotter, drier summers will drive a decline in wetland areas, reducing essential habitat for frogs, salamanders, and many bird and insect species.
- Grizzly bears may have fewer whitebark pine nuts, a nutritious, high-calorie food source the bears depend on as they prepare for winter hibernation.
- Non-native, invasive plants, able to take advantage of early spring moisture and drier summers, are starting to out compete native vegetation within the park's lower elevation grasslands.

# Within the Herd

Yellowstone is the only place in the United States where bison have lived continuously since prehistoric times. Bison here are special: they're America's largest bison population on public land that can still migrate and adapt to diseases and predators

Bison mainly eat grasses and sedges and are well-suited to both prairies and forests. With adult males weighing up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg), the bison is the largest land mammal in North America.

The herd is made up of cows, calves, and some younger bulls. During the rut in July and August, mature bulls display their dominance by bellowing, wallowing, and fighting with other bulls to earn the right to mate with receptive females. After 9 to 9.5 months, calves are born in late April and May. Their orange fur makes them easy to see and has earned them the nickname "red dogs."

Look for bison in open country along the Lamar, Yellowstone, Firehole, and Madison rivers.

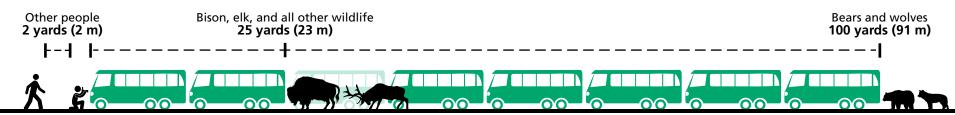
## **Bison or Buffalo?**

In North America, both "bison" and "buffalo" refer to the American bison (Bison bison). Generally, "buffalo" is used informally, while "bison" is preferred for formal or scientific purposes.

Early European explorers called this animal by many names. Historians believe that the term "buffalo" grew from the French word for beef, boeuf.



## Enjoy watching Yellowstone's animals but STAY SAFE. They are WILD and DANGEROUS.



# Old Faithful Village and Upper Geyser Basin



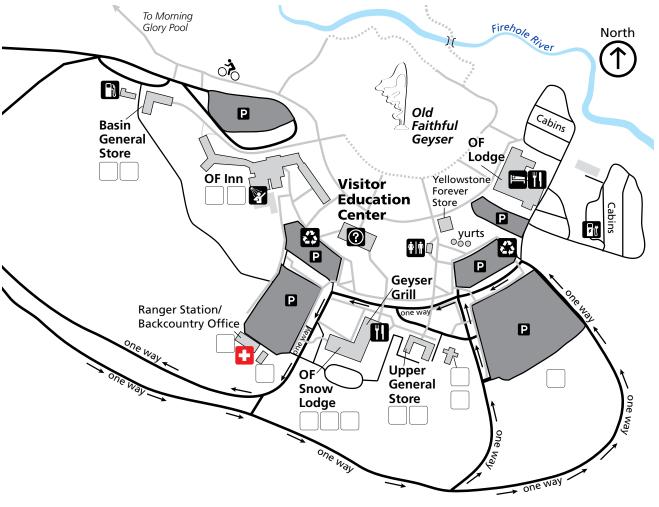
The Upper Geyser Basin, home of Old Faithful, hosts the greatest concentration of active geysers on Earth, providing ample evidence of the active volcano below your feet.

Yellowstone Volcano's reservoir of partially molten rock (magma) is ~5 miles (8 km) below the surface here. This magma provides the first ingredient needed to create the area's hydrothermal features: **heat!** Rain and snow provide the second ingredient: **water**, which percolates ~0.5 miles (0.8 km) through hot, fractured rocks heated by the underlying magma reservoir. These hot, fractured rocks provide the third ingredient: the mineral **silica**. The extremely hot water below dissolves silica in the rocks. As the superheated water works its way back to the surface, it carries this silica and deposits it when it cools at the surface. In fact, Old Faithful geyser is a mound of silica that is growing ever so slowly after every eruption.

Old Faithful erupts more frequently than any of the other big geysers, although it is not the largest or most regular geyser in the park. During summer, rangers forecast eruption times for six major geysers. However, a geyser's pattern of eruptions may change at any time.

#### To view forecasted eruption times:

- Use the Yellowstone National Park App (see page 2)
- Call 307-344-2751 (option 2)
- Check the **@GeyserNPS** Twitter feed
- Check at the Visitor Education Center and many of the area facilities



**Stay on Boardwalks and Designated Trails.** Do not touch any thermal features, and keep foreign objects out of springs. It can be windy, so cinch your hats, and secure your items.

#### Not all services available

Medcor Medical Clinic
 5/14–10/1 7a–7p daily
 307-545-7325
 Emergency: Dial 911

### Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

Dynamic exhibits about the world's most active hydrothermal area. 307-344-2750

Check locally for hours.

#### Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

#### 🔄 Lodging

Old Faithful Inn 6/4–10/11 Old Faithful Lodge and Cabins 5/14–10/3 Old Faithful Snow Lodge 5/7–10/31

## Food

- Old Faithful Inn
- Bear Paw Deli 6/4–10/11
- Dining Room Check locally

#### Old Faithful Lodge and Cabins

- Bake Shop 5/14–10/3
- Cafeteria 5/14–10/3

#### Old Faithful Snow Lodge

- Obsidian Dining Room 5/7–10/31
- Geyser Grill 4/16–11/7

Basin General Store Soda Fountain 6/11–10/10

## Fuel

Lower Station 5/14–9/12 Upper Station 4/30–10/17 Credit card fueling available 24 hours. Liquid propane gas bottle exchange available.

Repairs 5/28–9/6 Wrecker 4/30–10/17 406-848-7548

## Shopping

Old Faithful General Store 5/7–10/24 Groceries, souvenirs, and take-away foods. Basin General Store 6/11–10/10 Old Faithful Inn Gift Shop 6/4–10/11 Old Faithful Lodge Gift Shop 5/14–10/3 Old Faithful Snow Lodge Gift Shop 5/7–10/31 Yellowstone Forever Store

### US Post Office

#### Self-guiding Trail Booklets

Available for the Upper Geyser Basin and the Old Faithful Historic District.

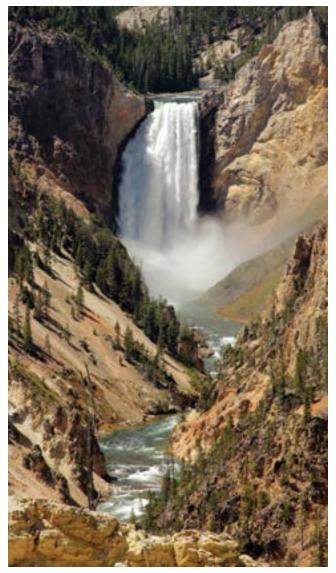
### Public Restrooms

At the visitor center and in stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

## Recycling Bins

Located in parking lot near yurts, near trash bins at General Stores, and in parking lot near Visitor Education Center.

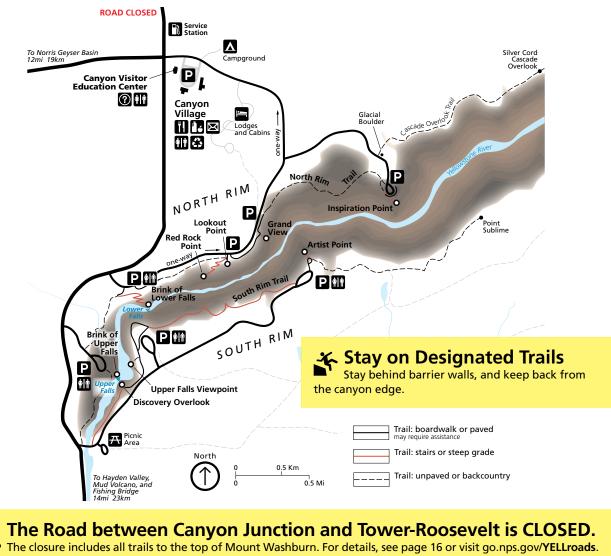
# Canyon Village and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone



The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River illustrates the park's complex geologic history in dramatic colors and shapes. The Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River add to the grandeur of this unique natural treasure.

This canyon formed when hydrothermal activity altered and weakened the bedrock, making the stone softer. The Yellowstone River eroded the weakened rocks to deepen and widen the canyon.

The 308-foot (93 m) Lower Falls marks the point where the volcanic bedrock beneath the river changes from hard rock, resistant to erosion, to the hydrothermally altered rocks common downstream. The 109-foot (33 m) Upper Falls marks a similar shift. The multi-hued layers of the canyon result from the hydrothermally-altered rhyolite and sediments. Look closely at dark orange, brown, and green areas near the river for still-active hydrothermal features. Their activity—and that of water, wind, and earthquakes continue to sculpt the canyon today.



#### Not all services available

#### Canyon Visitor Education Center

Learn about the Yellowstone supervolcano and the forces that drive regional geology. 307-344-2550 Check locally for hours.

### Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

#### Lodging

Canyon Lodges 5/28–10/11 Canyon Cabins 5/21–10/3

#### Campground

Canyon Campground 5/21–9/19 Showers 🕞 Laundry

#### Food

- Canyon Lodge 5/21–10/11
- Eatery
- Falls Cafe CLOSED
- Ice Creamery CLOSED
- M66 Grill CLOSED

General Store Soda Fountain 5/14–10/17

## **Fuel** 4/23–10/24

Credit card fueling available 24 hours. Liquid propane gas bottle exchange available. Repairs 5/28–9/6

Wrecker 4/23–10/24 406-848-7548

## Shopping

Canyon General Store 5/14–10/17 Groceries, ice cream, souvenirs, apparel. Yellowstone Adventure Store 6/25–9/12 Camping and outdoor gear, footwear, fishing supplies Canyon Lodge Gift Shop 5/21–10/11

#### US Post Office

#### Self-guiding Trail Booklet Available for the area.

### Public Restrooms

At the visitor center and in stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

### Recycling Bins

Located in the campground and near trash bins at the General Store.

# Lake Village, Fishing Bridge, and Bridge Bay



# Mammoth Hot Springs

Mammoth Hot Springs terraces are like living sculptures, shaped by the volume of the water, slope of the ground, and objects in the water's path. Travertine builds up rapidly here and causes the features to change quickly and constantly. Some vents may clog completely, new vents may form, and old vents may reopen. Sometimes the water is concentrated in a few springs; other times, it spreads across many outlets.

Water follows the path of least resistance, whether above- or underground. Scientists estimate that, at any given time, only about 10 percent of the water in the Mammoth Hot Springs system is on the surface. The features are always changing, but the overall activity of the entire area and the volume of water discharge remain relatively constant. Here, as in few other places on earth, rock forms before your eyes.

#### Not all services available

#### Medcor Medical Clinic

Every day 5/28–9/23; Weekdays only rest of year 307-344-7965 Emergency: Dial 911

### **a** Horace M. Albright Visitor Center

Get immersed in the history of Yellowstone and the National Park Service and the wildlife of Yellowstone's Northern Range. 307-344-2263 Check locally for hours.

Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

#### Lodging

Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel 4/30–11/28 Mammoth Hot Springs Cabins 5/7–10/11

#### Campground

Mammoth Campground Year-round

### **Food** limited indoor dining

Mammoth Hotel Dining Room 5/21–11/28 Terrace Grill 4/30–10/11

### **Fuel** 5/7–10/3

Credit card fueling available 24 hours. Liquid propane gas bottle exchange available.

## Shopping

Mammoth General Store Year-round Groceries, ice cream, souvenirs, apparel. Public water bottle filling station. Mammoth Hotel Gift Shop 4/30–11/28



### Self-guiding Trail Booklets

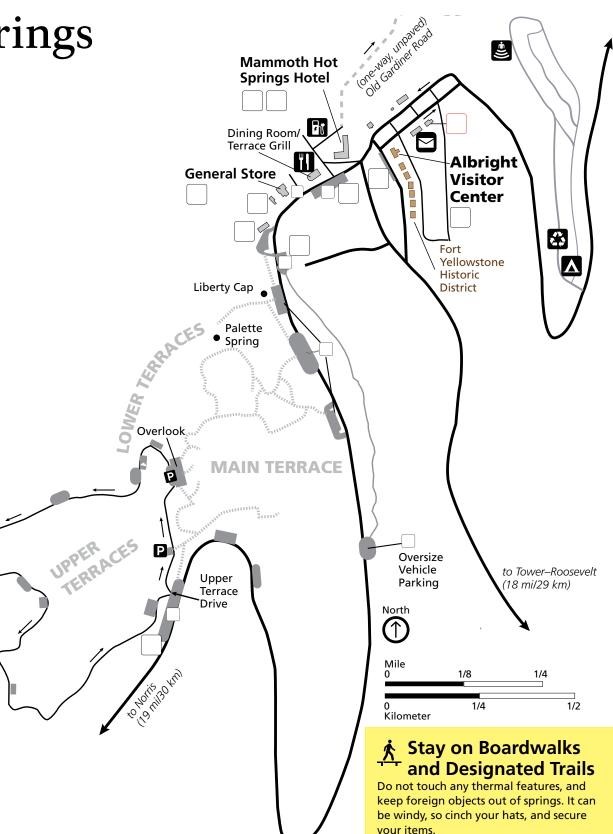
Available for the Mammoth Terraces and Fort Yellowstone.

### Public Restrooms

In stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

#### Recycling Bins

Located near the General Store, the visitor center, the Mammoth restrooms, and at the campground.



## Fort Yellowstone

For the decade after Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, the park was under serious threat from those who would exploit, rather than protect, its resources. In 1886, the US Army stepped in to help.

The buildings of Fort Yellowstone are a testament to the long history of our first national park and of the important role the army played in preserving it for the future. They remind us that the resources we find within Yellowstone's boundaries are not only natural ones, but cultural as well. Our interactions with this wilderness continue to shape our idea of what a national park should be, just as they did during the days of Fort Yellowstone.



# Norris





Park in This Area at **Your Own Risk** 

When Steamboat Geyser erupts, dissolved minerals in the spray can damage glass and metal surfaces on vehicles.

Norris Geyser Basin **Museum and Information Station** 307-344-2812 Check locally for hours.

Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

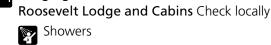
**Museum of the National Park Ranger** CLOSED

Campground Δ Norris Campground CLOSED

Self-guiding Trail Booklet Available for the area.

## **Tower-Roosevelt** Not all services available

## E Lodging

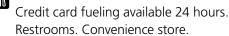


Campground Tower Fall Campground CLOSED

# Food

Roosevelt Lodge 6/4–9/6 • Roosevelt Lodge Dining Room

## **Fuel** 6/4–9/5



## Shopping

Tower Fall General Store CLOSED **Roosevelt Mini Store CLOSED** Roosevelt Lodge Gift Shop 6/4–9/6



## **Grant Village Visitor Center** To West Thumb Bridge Bay Grant Restaurant Lake House Restaurant $\Box$ Mini Store To Lewis Lake, South Entrance **General Store** $(\uparrow)$

# Madison

Madison Information Station 307-344-2821 Check locally for hours. Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

Campground 5/14–10/17 Δ Madison Campground

# West Yellowstone

**O** Visitor Information Center Inside the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce. Trip planning information, fishing permits, and ranger programs. 307-344-2876

Chamber of Commerce: Check locally for hours. NPS Desk: Check locally for hours.

### Not all services available

#### **Grant Visitor Center** 2

Explore the extraordinary ecological and social impacts of the historic fires of 1988. 307-344-2650 Check locally for hours.

## Yellowstone Forever Bookstore

Backcountry Office

E Lodging

Grant Village 6/18–10/3

Campground

Grant Village Campground 6/18–9/12 Showers 🕞 Laundry

#### Food ΪÎ

Grant Village 6/18–10/3

• Grant Village Dining Room

Lake House at Grant Check locally

**Fuel** 5/28–9/19 (5/28–9/6 for repairs/wrecker) Credit card fueling available 24 hours. RV liquid propane tanks filled.

Repairs 😿 Wrecker 406-848-7548

## Shopping

Grant General Store 6/18–9/26 Groceries, snack bar, souvenirs, apparel. Grant Mini Store 5/28–10/3 Camping and outdoor gear, footwear, fishing supplies. Grant Lodge Gift Shop 6/18–10/3

## US Post Office

Public Restrooms

In stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

## Recycling Bins

Located in the campground and near trash bins at the General Store.

# A Global Legacy

Yellowstone National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978 because it protects significant geological phenomena and processes. It is also a unique manifestation of geothermal forces, natural beauty, and wild ecosystems where rare and endangered species can thrive. As one of the few remaining intact large ecosystems in the northern temperate zone, Yellowstone's ecological communities provide unparalleled opportunities for conservation, study, and enjoyment of large-scale wildland ecosystem processes.

# Yellowstone es un lugar peligroso

#### Mantenga distancia de los animales

- No se acerque ni alimente a ningún animal.Los bisontes, los osos y los alces han herido y
- matado personas.
- Manténgase a 100 yardas (91 m) de osos y lobos.
  Manténgase a 25 yardas (23 m) de todos los demás
- animales.
- •Nunca corra si ve a un oso.
- Camine en grupos, haga ruido y lleve gas pimienta para osos.

#### Sea prudente en las zonas termales

- Permanezca en los paseos marítimos y en los senderos.
- El agua caliente puede causar graves quemaduras o la muerte
- Nunca corra ni empuje.
- Supervise a los niños en todo momento.
- No está permitido fumar en las cuencas de los géiseres ni en los edificios.

#### Usted es responsable de su seguridad.

# Yellowstone présente de multiples dangers

#### Restez à distance des animaux

- Ne vous approchez pas et ne nourrissez pas les animaux.
- •Les bisons, les ours, et les wapitis ont déjà été à l'origine de blessés et de morts.
- Restez à 100 yards (91 m) des ours et des loups.
- Restez à 25 yards (23 m) de tous les autres animaux.
- Ne courez jamais devant un ours.
- Restez en groupe lors des randonnées, faites du bruit, et conservez un vaporisateur de gaz poivré sur vous.

### Soyez prudent (e) dans les zones thermales

- Restez sur les passages en bois et les sentiers.
- L'eau très chaude peut provoquer des blessures graves ou entraîner le décès.
- Soyez attentif / attentive à ne jamais courir, vous pousser ou vous bousculer.
- Surveillez constamment les enfants.
- Il est interdit de fumer dans les bassins des geysers et les bâtiments.

Vous êtes responsable de votre sécurité.

## Der Yellowstone-Park ist gefährlich

### Halten Sie sich von Tieren fern

- Nähern Sie sich keinen Tieren an und füttern Sie sie nicht.
- Bisons, Bären und Elche haben in der Vergangenheit Menschen verletzt und getötet.
- Bleiben Sie 100 Yard (91 m) von Bären und Wölfen entfernt.
- Bleiben Sie 25 Yard (23 m) von allen anderen Tieren entfernt.
- Laufen Sie niemals von einem Bären weg.
- Wandern Sie in einer Gruppe, machen Sie Lärm und tragen Sie ein Bärenspray bei sich.

### Vorsicht in Thermalbereichen

- Bleiben Sie auf Geh- und Wanderwegen.
- Das heiße Wasser kann zu schweren Verbrennungen oder Tod führen.
- Niemals laufen, schubsen oder stoßen.
- Achten Sie stets auf Ihre Kinder.
- Rauchen ist nicht gestattet in Geysirbereichen oder Gebäuden.

Sie sind für deren Sicherheit verantwortlich.

# Национальный парк Йеллоустоун опасен.

- Перемещайтесь только по дощатым настилам и оборудованным тропам.
- Не бросайте в гидротермальные объекты предметы, в том числе монеты и мелкие камни.
- Не курите в зданиях и гейзеровых бассейнах.
- Не прикармливайте диких животных и птиц.
- В соответствии с законом все посетители должны держаться на расстоянии не менее 91 м (100 ярдов) от медведей и волков и не менее 23 метров (25 ярдов) от других животных, включая бизонов, вапити и койотов.

# Yellowstone è pericolosa

- Percorrere le passerelle e i sentieri.
- Non lanciate oggetti, come monete e sassolini, nelle formazioni idrotermali.
- È vietato fumare nei bacini dei geyser o negli edifici
- Non date da mangiare agli animali selvatici, compresi gli uccelli.
- La legge richiede che tutti i visitatori restino ad almeno 91 metri (100 iarde) da orsi e lupi, e ad almeno 23 metri (25 iarde) da tutti gli altri animali, inclusi bisonti, renne e coyote.

## go.nps.gov/translate-ynp

## 在黄石国家公园要处处小心危险

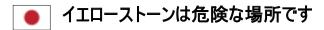
## 请与动物保持距离

- 请勿靠近或给任何动物喂食。
- 野牛,熊和麋鹿都曾致人受伤或死亡。
- •请与熊或狼保持100码 (91米)的距离。
- •请与其他动物保持25码 (23米)的距离。
- 不要从熊面前逃跑。
- 请结伴而行,制造噪音并携带防熊喷雾。

#### 请小心温泉

- 请勿离开木栈道或游径。
- 热水可导致严重烫伤或死亡。
- 请勿奔跑、推搡或拥挤。
- 请时刻照管好您的小孩。
- 间歇泉盆地或建筑物 内不允许吸烟。

## 您对自己的安全负责。



## 動物から距離を置いて下さい

- 絶対に動物に近づいたり、エサを与えたりしないで下さい。
- バイソン、熊やヘラジカが人に危害を加え、
   死に至るケースも発生しています。
- ・ 熊や狼からは100ヤード(91メートル) 離れて下さい。
- その他すべての動物からは25ヤード( 23メートル)離れて下さい。
- ・ 熊に出くわしても、絶対に走らないで下さい。
- ハイキングする時はグループで行動し、音を立て、
   熊撃退スプレーを携帯して下さい。

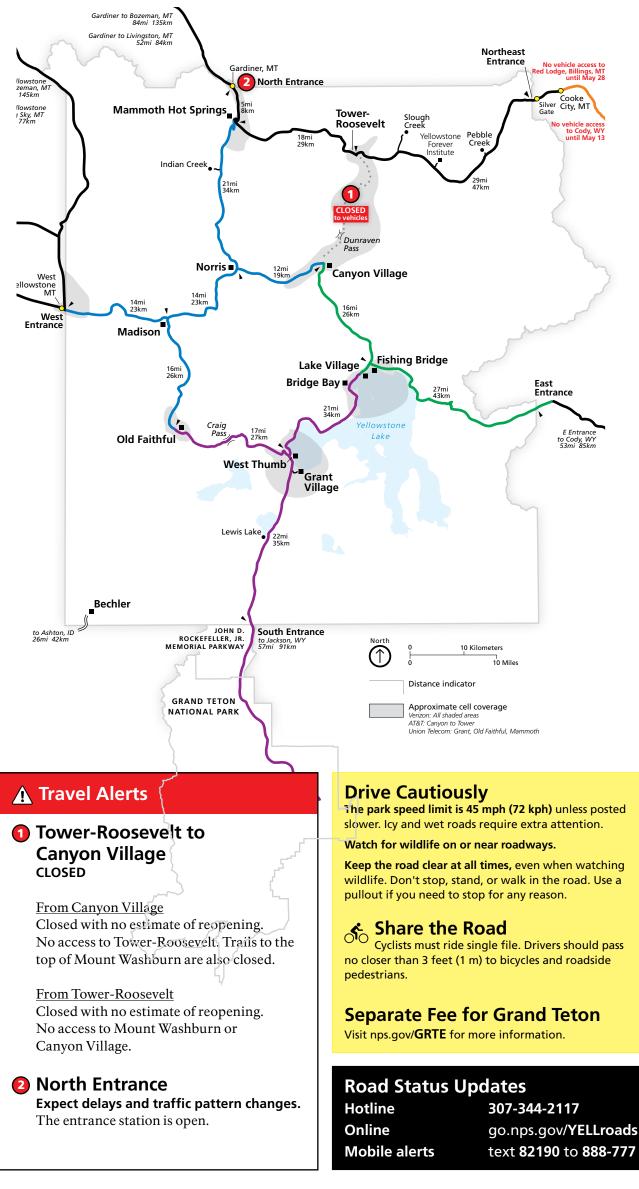
## 高温地帯では注意して下さい

- 遊歩道や小道を歩いて下さい。
- 高温地帯により重度のやけどを負ったり、
   死に至るケースがあります。
- 絶対に走ったり、押したり、
   押しのけたりしないで下さい。
- ・ 常にお子様から目を離さないで下さい。
- ・ 間欠泉盆地や建物内は禁煙です。

### 自分自身の身の安全に責任を持って下さい。

- 옐로스톤 국립 공원은 위험한 장소입니다.
- 보드워크와 등산로를 벗어나지 마십시오.
- · 동전과 조약돌을 포함하는 물체들을 열수 구역에 던지지 마십시오.
- 간헐천 지대나 건물에서는 흡연이 허용되지 않습니다.
- 새를 포함하는 야생동물에게 먹이를 주지 마십시오.
- 법률에 의하면, 모든 방문객들은 곰과 늑대로부터 최소한 100야드(91미터), 그리고 들소, 엘크, 코요테를 포함하는 다른 모든 동물들은 최소한 25야드(23미터)의 거리를 유지해야 합니다.

# Park Roads



# **Road Schedule**

Weather permitting, roads open/close at 8 am on the day listed. Changes and delays are possible.

