Welcome to Yellowstone.  
We’re glad you’re here.

Top 10 things to know
As you enter the park, please become familiar with some of the rules and advisories that are important to a safe and enjoyable visit. More are described inside and online at 
www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/rules.htm

Give wildlife a brake.  Unless posted slower, top speed throughout the park is 45 mph (73 kph). To assure yourself enough stopping distance if you encounter animals unexpectedly, please slow down.

Watch from pullouts.  If you see wildlife while driving, do not stop or impede the safe and free flow of traffic along any portion of the roadway. Instead, find the next established pullout, park, and watch from a safe distance.

Campfires are allowed only in designated grills in park campgrounds, some picnic areas and specific backcountry camp sites. Ask locally about current fire restrictions. Campfires must be extinguished before leaving unattended.

Do not approach wildlife. You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves. A distance of 25 yards (23 m) is required from bison, elk, and other animals. Regardless of distance, if any animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

Do not feed any wild animals, including birds. Consuming human food is unhealthy and encourages aggressive behavior that may require management action. All food, trash, coolers, and cooking tools must be kept secure in a bear-proof container unless in immediate use.

Stay on designated trails and boardwalks. Ground in hydrothermal areas is fragile and thin, and there is scalding water just below. Visitors have fallen through and died here. Keep your children close at hand.

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

As you enjoy trails, be bear aware. You are safer hiking with groups of three or more. In areas of low visibility, make noise to avoid surprise encounters. Do not run from a bear under any circumstance. Carry bear spray and know how to use it safely.

Control your pet. 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 to personally ensure their well being.

Cell phone service may be accessible in some developed areas and at the North and West entrances. Check with your provider for coverage areas. As a courtesy to others, please silence your mobile device while enjoying Yellowstone’s natural features. Wi-Fi is available to visitors at the Mammoth Hotel lounge, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Lake Lodge cafeteria, and Grant Lodges for a fee.
Your Yellowstone experience has been more than 140 years in the making

You are the reason that Yellowstone National Park exists here today. So are your children, and their grandchildren.

Since Yellowstone’s founding as the world’s first national park on March 1, 1872, it has evolved a complex stewardship mission to be both available and conserved for the enjoyment of all.

As you explore the park today, try to imagine what it was like to come here as one of those earliest visitors, and then also whether your experience will still be similar for those who visit in generations to come.

Many of the people who work and volunteer here enjoy sharing it with visitors since it allows them to see it fresh through your eyes. Please, seek us out –

• Step inside a visitor center and explore the exhibits and interpretive offerings.
• Carve time into your travel plans to attend a ranger walk, talk, or evening program. Our summer offerings begin Memorial Day weekend, and run through Labor Day weekend.
• Encourage your child to complete a Junior Ranger or Young Scientist activity booklet. Many rangers believe signing a finished booklet and leading a child through the Junior Ranger pledge is one of the most important and honor-bound duties we have.

It turns out you also mean a great deal to the economies of our gateway communities. A study by the US Geological Survey economists shows that total visitor spending in the local economies surrounding Yellowstone amounted to more than $382 million in 2013. This spending supported 5,300 jobs in the local area. The national park system as a whole, which hosted 273 million recreational visits in 2013, injected an estimated $14.6 billion into local economies across the country, and supported 237,000 jobs nationwide. Clearly, even through hard times, Americans see national parks as valuable, and a good value.

If you have suggestions for how we can further improve your experience, fill out a comment form at a visitor center, make use of contact information published here or on the park website at www.nps.gov/yell

Have a safe visit and come back soon.

The development of new communication technology has changed the way visitors view, share, and experience the park.

Superintendent Daniel N. Wenk

http://twitter.com/YellowstoneNPS
http://twitter.com/GeyserNPS
www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS
www.youtube.com/YellowstoneNPS
www.flickr.com/photos/YellowstoneNPS
instagram.com/YellowstoneNPS

http://go.nps.gov/translate-ynp

The term QR code is a registered trademark of Denso Wave, Inc.

Yellowstone NPS
www.nps.gov/yell

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Federal regulations require you to stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other wild animals, such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and coyotes.

If an animal moves closer to you, you should move to maintain the appropriate distance.

Do not surround, crowd, or disrupt an animal’s path of movement.

If other visitors put you or wildlife in danger, leave the scene and notify a park ranger.

These activities are prohibited within Yellowstone

- Willfully remaining near or approaching wildlife, including nesting birds, within any distance that disturbs or displaces the animal.
- Traveling off boardwalks or designated trails in hydrothermal areas.
- Throwing anything into thermal features.
- Swimming in hot springs.
- Removing or possessing natural or cultural resources (such as wildflowers, antlers, rocks, and arrowheads).
- Leaving detachable side mirrors attached when not pulling trailers.
- Traveling off-road by vehicle or bicycle.
- Camping outside of designated areas.
- Spotlighting wildlife (viewing with lights).
- Imitating elk calls or using buglers. Imitating wolf howls.
- Using electronic equipment capable of tracking wildlife.

For more information, consult 36 CFR and the Superintendent’s Compendium posted online at www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm

Do not feed any wildlife, including small mammals and birds. Consuming human food is unhealthy and encourages aggressive behavior that may require animals to be destroyed.

All food, trash, and scented items must be kept bear-proof at all times. Tents, truck beds, and picnic tables are not secure. In some areas, ravens have learned how to unzip packs and scatter the contents.

None of these items, even if clean and empty, may be left unattended at any time:

- Food, including condiments, even if in containers
- Cosmetics and toiletries
- Pet food and bowls
- Pails, buckets, and wash basins

For your health

- Toxic gases may exist at dangerous levels in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave immediately.
- Much of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow yourself time to acclimate and drink plenty of liquids to avoid dehydration. Be aware of your physical limitations and don’t over-exert. Visitors with cardiac or respiratory medical history may wish to consult a physician before a visit.
Backcountry camping

Overnight backcountry camping in Yellowstone requires a permit. Permits can be obtained 2 days before the start of your trip. Permits are free for dates prior to Memorial Day. From Memorial Day through September 10 a fee is charged for backcountry permits. Detailed information on backcountry permit fees and making advanced reservations is available online at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm

Backcountry Offices are located at:

- Albright Visitor Center
- Tower Ranger Station
- Canyon Visitor Education Center
- Bridge Bay Marina
- Grant Village Visitor Center
- South Entrance
- Bechler Ranger Station
- Old Faithful Ranger Station
- West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center

Boating

Motorized boating is allowed on most of Yellowstone Lake and on Lewis 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. Permits are required for all boats and float tubes. Boaters must have a Coast Guard-approved wearable flotation device for each person.

All boat permits (motorized & non-motorized) can be purchased at the South Entrance, Grant Village Backcountry Office, and Bridge Bay Ranger Station. Float tube permits are available at Mammoth, Canyon, and Old Faithful backcountry offices; Northeast Entrance, and Bechler Ranger Station sell only.

There is an overnight backcountry permit fee. Permits are available as locations open. Inquire at ranger stations, visitor centers, or general stores, and at select locations outside the park. Regulations are posted at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm

Anglers help manage invasive lake trout

Yellowstone cutthroat trout species are the only native trout of the park. They provide an important source of food for many species of birds, and mammals including bears, river otters, and mink. Yellowstone Lake’s native cutthroat trout are severely threatened by lake trout (Salvelinus namaycush), voracious predators that were introduced illegally to the lake before 1994. Because they can grow larger, occupy deeper areas of the lake, and spawn in the lake instead of shallow tributaries, lake trout do not support wildlife throughout the ecosystem the way that cutthroat trout do.

The park now targets lake trout with an intensive gillnetting program that begins each spring after ice is gone from Yellowstone Lake and continues into October. While managers don’t expect to eliminate lake trout entirely, they do hope to limit growth of the population and to recover cutthroat trout to the greatest extent possible. Each year, visitors catch about 25,000–30,000 nonnative lake trout. Regulations require anglers to kill all lake trout that they catch in Yellowstone Lake and its tributaries.

More information is available online at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm

Wild lands and wildfire

Wildfire may affect your visit. Smoke may be visible from ongoing fires, and changing conditions could impact your travel plans.

Naturally occurring fires are an important part of the ecosystem. Vegetation here has evolved in the presence of fire. Fire returns necessary nutrients to the soil and some species, like the lodgepole pine (pinus contorta), actually depend on fire.

Fire can alter habitat diversity by removing the forest overstory, allowing different plant communities to become established, or shifting boundaries between trees and grassland.

Periodic, patchy fires also reduce the amount of fuel available, and thereby help prevent larger, more expansive blazes across the landscape.

Campfires are allowed only in designated grills in park campgrounds, some picnic areas, and specific backcountry campsites. Ask locally about current fire restrictions.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Transport the transport of invasive species. Control of non-native aquatic species such as Eichhornia crassipes has evolved in the presence of fire. Fire returns necessary nutrients to the soil and some species, like the lodgepole pine (pinus contorta), actually depend on fire.

Fire can alter habitat diversity by removing the forest overstory, allowing different plant communities to become established, or shifting boundaries between trees and grassland.

Periodic, patchy fires also reduce the amount of fuel available, and thereby help prevent larger, more expansive blazes across the landscape.
Recycling
Safe disposal of bear spray can be a challenge. It can’t be taken on airplanes. And if thrown in the trash, it can injure others or become a hazard in landfills.

A group of private and public partners has developed a machine that safely removes active ingredients and propellant from each bear spray canister. The components are sorted for recycling and diverted from landfills.

Bear spray canisters can be recycled at park hotels, stores, visitor centers, backcountry offices, and ranger stations, as well as area camping stores, and the Bozeman airport.

YOUR SAFETY IN BEAR COUNTRY

Wildlife scientists note that there is an average of one bear attack in the park each year. In 2011, in separate incidents, two visitors were killed by bears inside the park. Your safety cannot be guaranteed.

Hiking in bear country takes appropriate preparation. Before you set out, be sure to learn what to do if you ever encounter a bear unexpectedly.

You are most likely to encounter bears at park roadsides. If you see a bear while driving, do not stop and do not block any portion of the road. Regardless of what other people do, keep moving to the next paved pullout and park safely. If the bear is within 100 yards, watch and take photographs from inside your car.

If you do leave your vehicle to watch wildlife, please remember that Federal regulations require you to stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from both bears and wolves.

Store all food, trash, and scented items properly. All food, trash, scented items, coolers, and cooking tools must be kept secure in a bear-proof container or vehicle. Tents, truck beds, unattended packs, and picnic tables are not secure.

For your safety and the safety of others, please report all bear incidents and wildlife encounters to a park ranger immediately.

For more information about your safety in bear country visit www.nps.gov/yell/planyour-visit/bearsafety.htm

Hiking in bear habitat

• BE ALERT watch for bears, fresh tracks, or scat.
• MAKE NOISE in areas with limited visibility.
• CARRY BEAR SPRAY and know how to use it.
• AVOID HIKING ALONE—hike with three or more people.
• DO NOT RUN.

Bear encounters

Remember to check at local visitor centers or ranger stations for recent bear activity before hiking, and respect all bear management closure areas. Bears and other wildlife rely on carcasses for food and will protect a food source aggressively. Bears with cubs are especially dangerous.

• If you encounter a bear (most common)—slowly back away.
• If the bear charges at you (rare)—stand your ground and use bear spray.
• If a bear charges and makes contact with you (very rare)—fall onto your stomach and “play dead.”
• If a bear stalks you, then attacks (extremely rare)—fight back.
• If a bear attacks you in your tent (extremely rare)—fight back.

Bear spray

Bear spray is proven to be highly successful at stopping aggressive behavior in bears.

Bear spray is sold at gift shops, outdoor stores, service stations, and bookstores inside the park, as well as in many stores in the surrounding towns.

If a bear charges at you:
- Remove the safety clip.
- Aim slightly downward and adjust for crosswind.
- Begin spraying when the charging bear is 30–60 feet (10–20 yards) away.
- Spray at the charging bear so that the bear must pass through a cloud of spray.

If the bear continues to charge:
- Spray into the bear’s face.

Once discharged, it is difficult to tell how much spray remains in the canister. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for canister replacement or disposal.

Rentals

Bear spray is now available for rent at Canyon Village. Bear Aware LLC will rent 9.2 oz. Pepper Power® bear spray from a kiosk near the Canyon Visitor Education Center. The kiosk is located at the north end of the visitor center plaza, 20 yards from the main entrance.

Rentals include holster and belt, hiking safety information, and instructions on proper use of bear spray. Cost is $9.25 per day or $28.00 per week (3–7 days). Prices do not include tax. For more information visit bearaware.com. Bear Aware, LLC, is an authorized permittee of the National Park Service.

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Bear spray canisters can be recycled at park hotels, stores, visitor centers, backcountry offices, and ranger stations, as well as area camping stores, and the Bozeman airport.
### Visitor Information
- **bookstores, videos, maps, gifts, educational items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norris Visitor Center</td>
<td>9 am–5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Fall Visitor Information Center</td>
<td>NPS Desk: 8 am–4 pm, 5/23–9/7: 8 am–8 pm, 9/8–11/1: 8 am–4 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trail Rides
- **Norris**: 12 mi west, 5/15–9/28
- **Bridge Bay**: 9 mi south, 6/15–11/1
- **Indian Creek**: 3 mi south, 6/15–11/1

### Cafeteria
- **Terrace Grill**: 4/24–10/18
- **Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Bake Shop**: 5/10–10/9
- **Old Faithful Snow Lodge Bake Shop**: 5/10–10/9

### General Stores
- **Yellowstone Adventures**: 4/17–11/2
- **Lake Hotel**: 5/15–10/4
- **Lake Lodge**: 6/10–9/27

### Campgrounds
- **Norris**: 12 mi west, 5/15–9/28
- **Bridge Bay**: 9 mi south, 6/15–11/1
- **Indian Creek**: 3 mi south, 6/15–11/1

### Campground Fees
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norris</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Bay</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Creek</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Road, Service, and Program Schedules
- Check locally or at www.nps.gov/YELL for current information.
All of your food, cooking utensils, and garbage must be kept secure unless in immediate use.

Quiet hours
During quiet hours, 10 PM to 6 AM, no loud audio devices or other noise disturbances are allowed. Where allowed, generators may operate only between 8 AM and 8 PM.

Group camping
Group camping (tents only) is available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay for organized groups with a designated leader. Fees range from $110 to $360 (plus tax and utilities) per night, depending on group size. Advance reservations are required.

Food storage boxes
Food storage boxes are available at all of the campsites at Indian Creek, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Tower Fall campgrounds. Many campsites in other campgrounds are also equipped with bear-proof storage boxes. 

*Campgrounds open at 8 AM of first date listed and close for the season at 11 AM of last date listed.

Contact Xanterra Parks & Resorts
P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone WY 82190
www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com
Reserve_YNP@Xanterra.com
Toll-free 866-Geyserland (866-439-7375)
TDD 307-344-5395
Same-day reservations 307-344-7311

Camping makes memories for a lifetime

First-come, first-served
Campsite availability is first-come, first-served at the following NPS-operated campgrounds: Mammoth, Norris, Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Tower Fall. During peak season (late June to mid-August) campgrounds may fill. Arrive early to obtain a site.

Reservable sites
Reserve sites at Canyon, Bridge Bay, Madison, Grant Village, and Fishing Bridge RV Park through Xanterra Parks & Resorts. Hookups are available at Fishing Bridge RV Park, including water, sewer, and 50 amp electrical service. Fishing Bridge is restricted to hard-sided camping units. Tents and tent trailers are not allowed. There are no picnic tables or fire grates.

Overflow camping
There are no overflow camping areas available within 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
Check-in any time, but sites may not be available before 11 AM. Registration desks at Xanterra’s campgrounds are open 7 AM to 10 PM during peak season, and 8 AM to 9 PM during early and late season. Check-out time is 11 AM.

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

Discounts
Holders of Senior and Access passes receive approximately a 50 percent discount on camping fees, except at Fishing Bridge, where no discounts apply.

Know your 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 vehicle and anything you are towing. For non-reservable sites, use the total combined length of your vehicle and trailer to determine which campground can best accommodate your rig.

Key to campground features
- S: Sites you can reserve
- Ω: Rate does not include tax or utility pass-through
- †: Site with full hook ups
- A: Accessible sites available
- F: Flush toilets
- V: Vault toilets
- S/L: Pay showers/laundry onsite
- 2S: Two showers included each night
- DS: Dump station
- G: Generators okay 8 AM to 8 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In order of opening</th>
<th>Dates*</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Elev (ft)</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>RV sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammoth</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>A, F, G</td>
<td>Most are pull-through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison ∆ Ω</td>
<td>5/1–10/18</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>A, F, DS, G</td>
<td>Call for availability and reservations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Bridge RV ∆ Ω †</td>
<td>5/8–9/20</td>
<td>$47.75</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>F, S/L, 2S, DS, G</td>
<td>Call for availability and reservations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norris</td>
<td>5/15–9/28</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>A, F, G</td>
<td>2 sites are 50 ft (signed), 5 sites are 30 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Fall</td>
<td>5/22–9/28</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>All sites are 30 ft or less. Has hairpin curve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Bay ∆ Ω</td>
<td>5/22–9/7</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>A, F, DS, G</td>
<td>Call for availability and reservations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon ∆ Ω</td>
<td>5/29–9/13</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G</td>
<td>Call for availability and reservations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Creek</td>
<td>6/12–9/14</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>A, V</td>
<td>10 sites are 35 ft, 35 sites are 30 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pebble Creek</td>
<td>6/15–9/28</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Some long pull-throughs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slough Creek</td>
<td>6/15–10/7</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>14 sites at 30 ft – walk first to assess sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Lake</td>
<td>6/15–11/1</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>All sites are 25 ft or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Village ∆ Ω</td>
<td>6/21–9/20</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G</td>
<td>Call for availability and reservations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Famously hot features

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

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

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

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

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

**Geyser** erupt with steaming hot water. They are hot springs with narrow spaces in their plumbing, usually near the surface. The 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).

### Albright Visitor Center
Located at Mammoth Hot Springs and open daily, year round, the center offers information, a bookstore, trip planning, and ranger programs.

Through 5/22 9 AM–5 PM
5/23–9/30 8 AM–7 PM
Oct. 1 through winter
9 AM–5 PM
Call 307-344-2263

### Canyon Visitor Education Center
Explore Yellowstone’s supervolcano and other aspects of its geology through interactive exhibits, including a Kugel globe and room-size relief map of Yellowstone.

4/17–5/22 9 am–5 pm; restrooms, lobby and info desk only.
5/23–9/7 8 AM–8 PM
9/8–9/30 8 AM–6 PM
10/1–10/12 9 AM–5 PM
Call 307-344-2550

### Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center
Offers exhibits about the park’s birds and other wildlife, and Yellowstone Lake’s geology, including a relief map of the lake bottom.

5/23–9/30 8 AM–7 PM
Call 307-344-2450

### Grant Visitor Center
Exhibits describe the park’s historic fires of 1988.

5/23–9/30 8 AM–7 PM
Call 307-344-2650

### Madison Information Station
5/23–9/30 9 AM–6 PM
Bookstore 9 AM–5 PM

### Junior Ranger Station
5/23–9/7 9 AM–6 PM
Call 307-344-2821

### Museum of the National Park Ranger
Located one mile north of Norris, the museum presents the history of the park ranger profession through exhibits and videos, and through the stories of retired rangers who volunteer to staff the center.

5/23–9/27 9 AM–5 PM
Call 307-344-7353

### Norris Geyser Basin Museum and Information Station
Contains exhibits about the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone.

5/23–9/30 9 AM–6 PM
Call 307-344-2812
Bookstore 10 AM–6 PM

### Old Faithful Visitor Education Center
Yellowstone’s newest visitor center offers dynamic exhibits about hydrothermal features. Geyser eruption predictions are posted, or call ahead.

4/17–5/22 9 AM–6 PM
5/23–9/30 8 AM–8 PM
10/1–11/1 9 AM–5 PM
Call 307-344-2751

### West Thumb Information Station
Offers information about the adjacent geyser basin on the shore of Yellowstone Lake.

5/23–9/30 9 AM–5 PM
Call 307-344-2650

### West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
Inside the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

Daily 5/1–5/21 8 AM–6 PM
Daily 5/22–9/30 8 AM–8 PM
Weekdays 10/1–4/30 8 AM–5 PM
NPS Desk–Open daily

4/17–5/22 8 AM–4 PM
5/23–9/7 8 AM–8 PM
9/8–11/1 8 AM–4 PM
Call 307-344-2876

Road, service, and program schedules may change. Check locally and at www.nps.gov/YELL for current information.
Students participate with teachers and parent chaperones in hikes, field investigations, discussions, and journal writing. Find out more at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/education/index.htm.

**Junior Ranger Program**

If you are age 4 or older, you can become a Yellowstone Junior Ranger. Stop by any visitor center to purchase a new Junior Ranger activity booklet for $3. To earn your official Yellowstone Junior Ranger patch, you need to:

- Hike on a park trail or boardwalk.
- Complete the age-appropriate activities on geothermal geology, park wildlife, and fire ecology.
- Attend a ranger-led activity—such as a talk, guided walk, or evening campfire program—and get the ranger’s signature.

Both children and adults benefit by learning more about the natural wonders of the park and sharing the fun of becoming a Junior Ranger.

**Expedition: Yellowstone!**

Live and learn in one of the most expansive outdoor classrooms. Yellowstone hosts teachers and their students in grades 4–8 in a five-day, curriculum-based residential program. Classes learn about the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone, investigate issues affecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and promote stewardship and preservation in the park and in home communities. Emphasis is on learning through direct experience in the outdoors.

Students participate with teachers and parent chaperones in hikes, field investigations, discussions, and journal writing. Find out more at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/education/index.htm.

**Young Scientist Program**

Children can become a Young Scientist by buying a self-guiding booklet for $5 at the Canyon Visitor Education Center (ages 10 and older) or Old Faithful Visitor Education Center (ages 5 and older). If you investigate the Old Faithful geyser, check out a Young Scientist Toolkit for the gear you need. Once you finish, you will be awarded a Young Scientist patch or key chain.

**Hydrothermal features**

In the 50 miles between Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful, you will see travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs, acidic thermal features at Norris Geyser Basin, mudpots and geysers at Fountain Paint Pot, 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.

**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. You can visit historic buildings, view hydrothermal activity, and see the Yellowstone River flow from the lake on its journey as the longest undammed river in America.

Four visitor areas lie along the lake’s shoreline: Fishing Bridge, Bridge Bay, Lake Village, and Grant Village.

**Grand Canyon**

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River extends south from 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.

The North Rim Drive features trails and 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.

**COURTESY XANTEERA PARKS & RESORTS**

**Programs for young people**

**Tours and activities**

**Authorized guides and outfitters**

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. Report unauthorized operators to a park ranger, or contact Concessions Management at 307-344-2271. Authorized providers are listed on the park website at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm.

**Yellowstone Association Institute**

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 find out more, call 406-848-2400 or visit wwwYELLOWSTONEASSOCIATION.ORG.

**Xanterra Parks & Resorts**

Under its concessions contract, Xanterra offers a wide variety of park tours and activities. In summer, visitors can enjoy photo safaris, partial or full-day tours, horseback and stagecoach rides, and boating and fishing adventures. In winter, there are partial or full-day tours by heated snowcoach, skiing, and snowshoe adventures. For more information, pick up an Experience Planner at any hotel or visit www.YELLOWSTONENATIONALPARKLODGES.COM.

**Outdoor ethics**

The National Park Service is a partner of Leave No Trace, a national education program promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of public lands through outdoor skills and ethics. The seven front-country principles for Leave No Trace are:

- Know before you go
- Stick to trails and camp overnight right
- Trash your trash and pick up (pet) poop
- Leave it as you find it
- Be careful with fire
- Keep wildlife wild
- Share our trails and manage your pet

Learn how to minimize recreation impacts and protect wildlands for future enjoyment. Visit www.LNT.ORG.
The Heritage and Research Center is located just beyond the North Entrance in Gardiner, Montana. This state-of-the-art facility is home to Yellowstone National Park’s museum collection, archives, research library, archeology lab, and herbarium. The temporary exhibit: “The Hayden Survey Through the Eyes of the Artists” chronicles the work of Henry Wood Elliott, Thomas Moran, and William Henry Jackson.

Although primarily a storage and research facility, tours provide an inside look at some of the collections. More than a century of historic records, nearly 90,000 photographic prints and negatives, 20,000 books and manuscripts, cultural and natural science specimens, archeological artifacts, and plant specimens from the earliest exploration of the park are curated within the facility.

Tours are available Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 AM, May 26 through September 10, and are limited to 15 people. For reservations, call 307-344-2264.

The Heritage and Research Center

Bicycling 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 back-country trails and boardwalks.

Regulations require that cyclists ride single file and we strongly recommend wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing. Park roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders. During April, May, and June, high snowbanks may make travel more dangerous. Road elevations range from 5,300 to 8,860 feet (1615 to 2700 meters), and services and facilities are relatively far apart. Be wary of over-exertion.

Some gravel roads are open to both bicycle and automotive traffic. Find information on routes and safety on the park website or pick up the Bicycling in Yellowstone brochure at a visitor center or ranger station.

Bicycle safely

Walking trails

Mammoth Hot Springs
Explore along the boardwalks winding 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 six miles (9.6 km) north of Fishing Bridge Junction.

Norris Geyser Basin
Explore the hottest, most dynamic geyser basin. Norris includes Steamboat, the world’s tallest geyser, and a variety of other geysers and hot springs.

Old Faithful Area
The world’s largest concentration of active geysers is here. View Old Faithful Geyser, then walk past hundreds of active geysers and hot springs along the Firehole River.

Old Faithful Historic District
Enjoy a tour of this historic district, which includes Old Faithful Geyser, the Inn, and other historic buildings.

Two Ribbons
Two miles (3.2 km) east of the West Entrance, enjoy a trail that loops beside a stretch of the Madison River and through a lodgepole forest affected by the historic 1988 fires.

West Thumb Geyser Basin
The boiling springs in this basin, including the famous Fishing Cone, discharge their waters into chilly Yellowstone Lake.

Canyon Area
View the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and the Upper and Lower Falls from overlooks and walkways.

Forces of the Northern Range
Eight miles (12.9 km) east of Mammoth, exhibits describe how volcanoes, glaciers, and fire shaped the landscape, as well as identify the area’s plants and animals.

Fort Yellowstone
Enjoy a walking tour of historic sites at Mammoth Hot Springs, from the time of U.S. Army, 1886–1918.

Fountain Paint Pot
View four types of hydrothermal features—geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, and mudpots—all in one place. Eight miles (12.9 km) north of Old Faithful.

Bison are animals of the grasslands; they eat primarily grasses and sedges. The bison is the largest land mammal in North America.

Cows, calves, and some younger bulls comprise a herd. Mature bulls spend most of the year alone or with other bulls. Except during the rut, or mating season in July and August. During the rut mature males display their dominance by bellowing, wallowing, and engaging in fights with other bulls. The winners earn the right to mate with receptive females.

After a gestation period of 9 to 9 1/2 months, calves are born in late April and May. Orange fur makes them easy to see, even from a distance. Look for bison in open country along the Lamar, Yellowstone, and Firehole rivers.
How do geysers work?

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-type geysers and cone-type geysers. Fountain-type geysers shoot water out in various directions from a pool of water. Cone-type geysers, like Lonestar Geyser (photo left) erupt in a concentrated jet of water from inside a rock formation.

Where biology and geology thrive

Among the first life forms to evolve on earth were microbes whose descendents now live in extreme high-temperature, sometimes acidic, habitats like those in and around thermal features. The heat-loving microorganisms called thermophiles—"thermo" for heat, “phile” for lover—survive and thrive in Yellowstone’s active volcanic environment.

Nourished by energy and chemical building blocks available in the hot springs, the microbes construct vividly colored communities. Community shapes, colors, and locations vary depending on the types of microbes, the pH (acidity or alkalinity), and the temperature of the feature.

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. Due to 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.

Thermophiles and their environments provide a living laboratory for scientist who continue to study the many mysteries of Yellowstone’s extreme habitats.

Digital #YellowstoneNPS

Connect to Yellowstone from anywhere in the world. Get started on the park website. Plan your visit, customize your trip to the park at www.nps.gov/yell.

Webcams • Stay connected to Yellowstone’s dynamic landscape through park webcams located at Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, and Mount Washburn Fire Lookout: www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm

Follow @YellowstoneNPS

Old Faithful has its own following @GeyserNPS on Twitter. This feed offers predictions for the eruption of Old Faithful Geyser ± 10 minutes throughout the day.

Videos and podcasts • Learn about Yellowstone’s treasures through videos available on the park website, the YellowstoneNPS YouTube channel, or free from iTunes.

• Minute out in it: video shorts of the special sights and sounds of Yellowstone.
• Visiting Yellowstone: A series of orientation videos.
• Exploring Yellowstone: Ranger Bach takes you on a tour of the Upper Geyser Basin, home to Old Faithful Geyser.
• Inside Yellowstone: Short ranger talks on park features and processes.
• Yellowstone InDepth: Major park issues are discussed by park rangers, scientists, historians, and visitors.

Canon U.S.A., Inc., through a grant to the Yellowstone Park Foundation, supports multimedia education projects. These include the Old Faithful live-streaming webcam, more than one hundred videos and podcasts, and the new geyser app.

Free NPS Yellowstone Geysers app

Discover the natural wonder of the most famous geyser of all, Old Faithful, and other geysers with this free app that you can use during your visit to the park and at home. App access in the park is limited by cellular network availability.
JOIN US to support the park and receive a quarterly magazine, as well as discounts on educational products and programs. Annual membership begins at $35.00.

EXPERIENCE Yellowstone your way with the Yellowstone Association Institute. We offer a variety of fun and affordable learning adventures that help foster lifelong connections to Yellowstone and the natural world.

VISIT any of our 10 Park Store locations: Mammoth Hot Springs, Canyon, Fishing Bridge, Grant Village, West Thumb, Old Faithful, Madison, Norris, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Gardiner (YA Headquarters).

Yellowstone Association
YellowstoneAssociation.org • 406.848.2400

Food and beverage services offer a variety of selections to satisfy any wilderness hunger. Relax to a cup of coffee, scoop of ice cream, or trail ready snacks while taking in the wonders of Yellowstone.

Discover volumes of books and explore the wide spectrum of collectibles and novelties in our souvenir areas. Our apparel departments provide a variety of items relating to the different areas of the Park. We offer supplies for a cookout, a night of camping, and a day of fishing, hiking, boating, and wildlife watching.

Visit Old Faithful, Fishing Bridge and Canyon Stores to experience our Pathways to Yellowstone program and meet talented local artists and authors.

Our award winning Environmental Management System, GreenPath, has a goal to provide stewardship and hospitality services to our guests while simultaneously preserving the natural wonders where we operate.

DELTA NORTH OPERATES TWELVE GENERAL STORES IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. EACH STORE IS UNIQUE IN ARCHITECTURE, AND LOCATED IN SCENIC SETTINGS THAT IS ALWAYS CONVENIENT. OFFERINGS INCLUDE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES, GROCERY, SOUVENIRS, APPAREL, OUTDOOR GEAR AND SUPPLIES. VISITORS WILL FIND OUR STAFF TO BE HELPFUL IN ASSISTING WITH MERCHANDISE, SCENIC STOPS OR WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS.

Adventures on Water
Yellowstone Lake Scenicruise
$17 Adult, $10 Child (3-11)
Guided Fishing/Sightseeing Boat Tours (2-hour minimum)
$50 per hour - 6 Passenger Boat
Rental Row Boats
$10 per hour (2-4 people)
18’ 40hp Outboard Boats
$50 per hour (2-6 people)
Backcountry Shuttle Service
$50 per hour, 2-hour minimum

Wild West Adventures
Horseshoe Rolls (private and shared)
$64 2-hour ride $45 1-hour ride
Old West Dinner Cookout Wagon - $37 Adult, $49 Child (3-11)
1.5-hour Horseback - $76 Adult, $59 Child (3-11)
3-hour Horseback - $89 Adult, $78 Child (3-11)
Stagecoach Adventure
$13.50 Adult, $7 Child (3-11)

Adventures on Land
Twilight on the Firehole Tour
$34 Adult, $17 Child (3-11)
Geyser Gazer Tour
$25 Adult, $13 Child (3-11)
Firehole Basin Adventure
$50 Adult, $35 Child (3-11)
Lamar Valley Wildlife Excursion
$70 Adult, $45 Child (3-11)
Circle of Fire Tour
$70 Adult, $37.50 Child (3-11)

For more information, pick up a Yellowstone Experience Planner at any hotel, activities desk, or campground.

For Reservations & Information:
307-344-7311 | TTY: 307-344-5395
YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com

All rates are subject to change and do not include tax or utility fe.
Partners Protect and Preserve

The National Park Service mission

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.

As an integral part of our mission, Yellowstone National Park, park concessioners, and park partners are committed to reducing the ecological footprint of park operations and preserving natural resources through sustainable practices. During your time in Yellowstone and beyond, we encourage you to do your part by practicing the following:

- Please properly dispose of all waste items. Recycling bins are located throughout the park for plastic, glass, metal, paper, cardboard, propane canisters, bear spray, batteries, and more.

- Yellowstone National Park encourages you to stay hydrated during your visit. Please use a reusable water bottle and fill it up for free at our many water filling locations.

- In an effort to reduce harmful emissions from idling, please turn your vehicle off while you are parked or stopped for more than 30 seconds. Emissions can also be reduced by carpooling and utilizing transportation services to tour the park.

- Reduce energy use by turning off lights, heat, and electrical devices when you leave your rooms.

- Help reduce water consumption by being aware of your water use. Turn water off while brushing your teeth, shorten showers, and participate in towel and linen reuse programs if you are staying in park lodging.

This sustainability message is brought to you by the Yellowstone Environmental Coordinating Committee, a team of National Park Service employees, park concessioners, and non-profit partners working together to combine extensive resources to elevate the potential for sustainability achievements in Yellowstone National Park. The YECC is comprised of representatives from Delaware North Companies, Medcor Inc., National Park Service, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone Park Foundation, and Yellowstone Park Service Stations.

Prizes and Exhibitions! Winning photos will be published on the cover and inside Nature’s Best Photography magazine.

Enter June 1 until Sept. 10, 2015:

WWW.YPF.ORG/CONTEST

© PRESTON HONE
**Entrance fees**

In 2015, entrance fees to Yellowstone National Park may increase. Also, a separate fee may be collected for entry into Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. No price changes will occur for the America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass, the Military Annual Pass, the Interagency Senior Pass, or the Interagency Access Pass. For the most up-to-date information about fees, please visit Yellowstone’s official park website. [http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fees.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fees.htm)

**Annual Passes (Photo ID required)**

- **Yellowstone National Park** $50
- **Interagency (multiple federal fee areas)** $80
- **Active Duty Military** Free

**Lifetime Passes (US Citizens / Permanent Residents)**

- **Interagency Senior (age 62+)** $10
- **Interagency Access (Permanently disabled)** Free

1 Annual pass for active duty U.S. military and dependents with proper identification: CAC or DD Form 1173.

2 Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports are still accepted, or can be exchanged for newer passes.

**Entrance Fees (Valid for 7 days with receipt)**

- **Private Vehicle** $25
- **Motorcycle** $20
- **Per Person (Walk-in, bicycle)** $12

*Includes Grand Teton National Park

**Area chambers of commerce**

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**Area National Park Service sites**

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**America the Beautiful**

- **National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass**
  - This interagency annual pass is valid 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, at Yellowstone Association bookstores (inside visitor centers), or visit [http://store.usgs.gov/pass](http://store.usgs.gov/pass)

**Already paid?**

Apply the cost of your Yellowstone entrance fee to the purchase of this pass at Yellowstone Association bookstores located in visitor centers, at the Bozeman Yellowstone Airport, and Gardiner.

The pass is not good for camping or for some other fees such as concessionaire parking fees at Mount Rushmore, or cave tours at various parks. Inquire locally.
**Campgrounds**

Park campgrounds are run by park concessionaires and are **first come, first served**. All sites cost $22.00. Operating seasons vary. Ask at park entrance stations or visitor centers for current status updates.

Jenny Lake is open to tents only. Other campgrounds accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles. The maximum stay is seven days at Jenny Lake, 14 days at other campgrounds, 30 days total per year.

There is a 30-foot restriction in effect at Signal Mountain and Lizard Creek. All of the park’s campgrounds have modern comfort stations. There are RV sites with full hookups at Colter Bay RV park and at Headwaters Campground and RV park. Hookups are also available at Gros Ventre and Signal Mountain campgrounds.

- **Colter Bay**, 335 sites, usually fills by evening
- **Gros Ventre**, 300 sites, rarely fills
- **Jenny Lake**, 49 sites, usually fills by 9 AM
- **Lizard Creek**, 60 sites, usually fills by evening
- **Signal Mountain**, 81 sites, usually fills by noon. 24 electric hookups, 1 full hookup.

**More next door**

Grand Teton National Park offers spectacular scenery, campgrounds, exhibits, and an abundance of outdoor activities. Hiking, sightseeing, boating, floating the Snake River, horseback riding, and fishing are all available depending on seasonal conditions.

**Backcountry camping** requires a permit from the Craig Thomas or Colter Bay visitor centers, or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Walk-in permits are $25, permits with a reservation are $35.

**Boating** requires a Grand Teton boating permit, sold at most visitor centers. A Wyoming fishing license is required to fish in the park.

**Grand Teton Guide**, the park newspaper, is available at entrance stations and visitor centers, or on the park website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

**Visitor centers**

- **Colter Bay Visitor Center** *(May 9 to October 12)*
  Information, exhibits, audiovisual programs, permits, and publication sales. 307-739-3594

- **Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center**
  Information, audiovisual programs, exhibits, permits, publication sales. 307-739-3399

- **Flagg Ranch Information Station** *(June 1 to September 7)*
  307-543-2372

- **Jenny Lake Ranger Station** *(June 6 to September 7)*
  Climbing information and permits. 307-739-3343

- **Jenny Lake Visitor Center** *(May 15 to September 23)*
  Information, publications sales. 307-739-3399

- **Laurence S. Rockefeller Preserve Center** *(May 30 to September 30)*
  Sensory exhibits and orientation to an eight-mile trail network. 307-739-3654.

**Lodging**

- **Colter Bay Cabins** 800-628-9988
- **Colter Bay RV Park** 800-628-9988
- **Dornan’s Spur Ranch Cabins** 307-733-2522
- **Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch** 307-543-2861, 800-443-2311
- **Jackson Lake Lodge** 800-628-9988
- **Jenny Lake Lodge** 307-733-4647, 800-628-9988
- **Signal Mountain Lodge** 800-672-6012