

# Yellowstone Today

Official Newspaper of Yellowstone National Park

Autumn 1999



Photo courtesy of Michael Sample

## International Visitors

Le Parc national de Yellowstone présente des risques particuliers. Regardez la page 2. Des renseignements en français sont disponibles aux centres des visiteurs dans le parc et aux kiosques d'entrée.

Der Yellowstone National Park hat gewisse Gefahren. Sehen Sie Seite 2. Sie können Information auf Deutsch an den Besucherzentren und Parkeingängen bekommen.

Existen peligros únicos en el Parque Nacional Yellowstone. Vea página 2. Se puede conseguir información en español en los Centros de Visitantes y las entradas.

エローストーン国立公園は、独特の注意事項があります。2ページを参照して下さい。公園来客センタズには日本語の公園情報用意されています。

Our official website can be found at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/yell>

## Fall Road Construction and Closures

Fall visitors: Please review the map located on the back page of this newspaper. It contains important road closure and construction information. Hikers and anglers should check with a ranger at visitor centers for current hiking or fishing access in construction areas. The East Entrance Road closes October 4 at 10:00 AM. All other interior park roads close for the season at 8:00 AM on Monday, November 8.

## Viewing Bears, Elk, Bison, and other wildlife in Yellowstone

- **Never approach bears.** If a bear is closer than 100 yards (91 m), stay in your vehicle.
- When viewing elk, bison, and other wildlife, maintain a distance of at least 25 yds. (23 m.) from the animal.
- **Never feed bears or other wildlife!**
- Always use pullouts while viewing wildlife.

## Emergency—Dial 911

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Castle Geyser, NPS photo



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# Some Things All Visitors Must Know...

## Yellowstone Today

### Unpredictable Wildlife—Keep Your Distance!

You will see more of an animal's natural behavior and activity if you are sensitive to its need for space. Do not approach any wildlife, especially those with young. View them from the safety of your vehicle. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

Each year a number of park visitors are injured by wildlife when they approach animals too closely. **You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes, or other wildlife.**

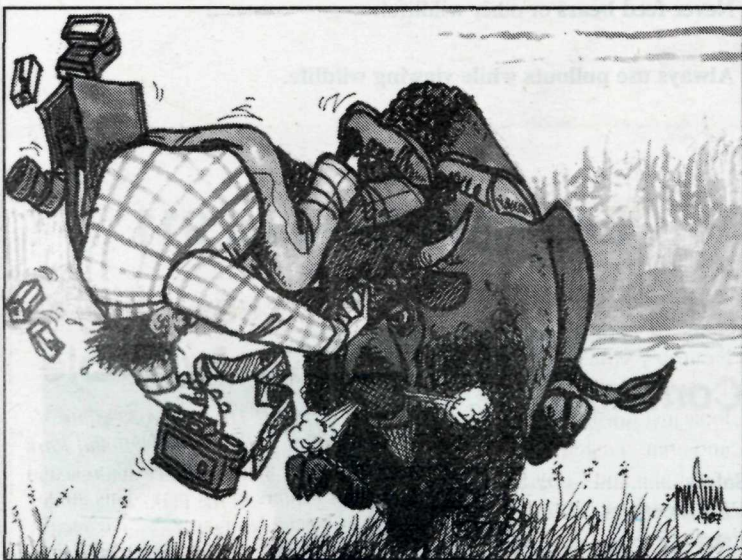
**BISON** may appear tame and slow but are unpredictable and dangerous. Every year visitors approach bison too closely and are gored. People have been killed by these animals, which weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint at 30 miles per hour (48 kmph)—three times faster than you can run!

**COYOTES** can quickly learn bad habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans. **Do not feed any wildlife!**

The best way to avoid being injured by a **BEAR** is to take all necessary precautions to avoid surprise encounters. Be alert for tracks and sign. If precautionary measures fail and you are charged by a bear, your behavioral reactions can be used to defuse the situation in most cases.

Pepper spray is a good last line of defense that has been effective in more than 90% of the reported cases where it has been used. Take the time to become familiar with your pepper spray, carefully read all instructions, and be aware of its limitations. If you decide to carry pepper spray it must be immediately available, not in your pack. Remember, carrying pepper spray is not a substitute for vigilance and good safety precautions. See pages 5 and 7 for more information.

If you are involved in a conflict with a bear or other animal, (regardless of how minor) or if you observe a bear or bear sign, report it to a park ranger as soon as possible. Someone's safety may depend on it.



### Backcountry Permits

Permits are required for overnight backcountry use and may be obtained in person up to 48 hours in advance from any ranger station. Rangers will provide information on weather, trails, and other conditions. See page 7.

### Boating Permits

Boats are allowed only on

Yellowstone, Lewis, and Shoshone lakes. A permit is required for all vessels (including float tubes) and is available at the South Entrance, Lewis Lake Campground, Bridge Bay Marina, Lake Ranger Station, and the Grant Village backcountry office. Boating is prohibited on park rivers and streams with the exception of the Lewis River between Shoshone and Lewis lakes.

### Avoid These Situations

Yellowstone is a wilderness filled with natural wonders that are also potential hazards. **There is no guarantee of your safety.** Avoid these problems:

- speeding (radar enforced)
- driving while intoxicated (open container law is enforced)
- improper food storage
- camping violations
- pets off leash
- littering
- swimming in thermal pools
- removal or possession of natural (flowers, antlers, etc.) or cultural (artifact) features
- feeding or approaching wildlife
- spotlighting (viewing animals with artificial light)
- boating and fishing violations
- failure to remove detachable side mirrors when not pulling trailers
- do not feed any wildlife

### Emergency—dial 911

**Park Information:**  
**(307) 344-7381**  
(long distance from some locations in the park)

### Scalding Water Can Ruin Your Trip

Yellowstone's thermal features, rare among the earth's wonders, are extremely fragile. Boardwalks and trails protect you and preserve delicate formations. **You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails.** Scalding water underlies most of the thin, breakable crust; pools may be near or above boiling temperatures.

Pets are prohibited in thermal areas.

Swimming or bathing in thermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a thermal spring or pool is prohibited. Thermal waters may contain organisms known to cause infections and/or amoebic meningitis, which can be quickly fatal. Swim at your own risk; for more information, ask at any ranger station or visitor center.

### Bicycling

Bicycling is permitted on established public roads, parking areas, and designated routes. There are no bicycle paths along roadways. Bicycles are prohibited on backcountry trails and boardwalks. We strongly recommend that safety gear, including helmet and high visibility clothing, be worn by all bicyclists. Park roads are narrow and winding; most do not have a shoulder, or shoulders are covered with gravel. Road elevations range from 5,300 to 8,860 feet (1,615–2,700 m).

Motorists frequently do not see bicyclists or fail to give them sufficient space on the road. Drivers sometimes pass on hill crests, blind curves, or in oncoming traffic. Vehicles, especially motor homes or those towing trailers, may have wide mirrors, posing an additional hazard. For more information about bicycling in Yellowstone, inquire at a visitor center.

### Falling Trees

Following the fires of 1988, thousands of dead trees, known as snags, were left standing in Yellowstone. Burned or unburned snags may fall with very little warning. Be cautious and alert for snags along trails and roadways and

in campsites and picnic areas. Avoid areas with large numbers of dead trees.

### Firearms

No firearms, including state-permitted concealed weapons, are allowed in Yellowstone. However, unloaded firearms may be transported in a vehicle when the weapon is cased, broken down or rendered inoperable, and kept out of sight. Ammunition must be placed in a separate compartment of the vehicle.

### Fishing Permits

A permit is required to fish in Yellowstone National Park. With some exceptions, Yellowstone National Park's fishing season opens on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and closes on the first Sunday in November. See page 6.

### High Altitude

Visitors with a cardiac or respiratory medical history should be aware that most park roads range between 5,300 to 8,860 feet (1,615–2,700 m) in elevation. We recommend contacting a physician prior to your visit.

Be aware of your physical limitations. Don't overexert and

drink plenty of fluids to forestall the dehydrating effects of the park's dry climate. Stop and rest frequently.

### Pets

**Pets must be leashed.** They are prohibited on any trails, in the backcountry, and in thermal basins. Pets are not allowed more than 100 yds. from a road or parking area. Leaving a pet unattended and/or tied to an object is prohibited.

### Traffic

Yellowstone has more than 350 miles (564 km) of roads. Most are narrow, rough, and busy! Some sections are steep with sharp drop offs. Drive cautiously and courteously; slow moving vehicles must use pullouts to observe wildlife or scenery and to allow safe passing by other vehicles. Watch for animals on the road, especially at night.

Bicycles and motorcycles present special hazards. Drive defensively and wear seat belts. **Yellowstone has a mandatory seat belt requirement for all passengers.** Be especially cautious on the rough roads. **The maximum speed limit is 45 mph (73 kmph) unless otherwise posted.**



# Visitor Centers & Self-Guiding Trails

Yellowstone Today

## Visitor Centers, Museums, and Information Stations

### Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth Hot Springs

Open year-round. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–6:00 PM September 7–25; 9:00 AM–5:00 PM thereafter. Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the wildlife, early history, exploration, and establishment of Yellowstone National Park are available. A 25-minute film on the national park idea and a 12-minute film on the artist Thomas Moran are shown on request throughout the day. Check at the visitor center for more information or call (307) 344-2263.

### Old Faithful Visitor Center

Open through November 7. Hours: daily 8:00 AM–6:00 PM

September 7–30; 9:00 AM–5:00 PM thereafter. Information, bookstore, and geyser eruption predictions are available. A short movie on geysers is shown throughout the day. Check at the visitor center for more information or call (307) 545-2750.

### Grant Visitor Center

Open through October 3. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, bookstore, exhibits, and a film on the fires of 1988. Bookstore open through September 26. Call (307) 242-2650 for information.

### West Thumb Information Station

Open through September 26. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, bookstore.

### Canyon Visitor Center

Open through October 10. Hours: daily 8:00 AM–7:00 PM. September 7–12; 8:00 AM–6:00 PM September 13–September 30; 9:00 AM–6:00 PM thereafter. Information, bison exhibit, bookstore. Call (307) 242-2550 for information.

### Fishing Bridge Visitor Center

Open through October 3. Hours: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM. Starting September 13–October 3: Fishing Bridge Visitor Center open Saturdays and Sundays only. Information, bookstore, and

exhibits on Yellowstone's birds and wildlife. Mobile Visitor Center open Monday through Friday at Fishing Bridge Junction. Information available. Call (307) 242-2450.

### Norris Geyser Basin Museum

Open through October 11. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, bookstore, exhibits on the geothermal features of Yellowstone. Bookstore open through October 3 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Call (307) 344-2812 for information.

### Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris

Open through September 26. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Exhibit at historic soldier station traces development of the park ranger profession; video shown.

### Madison Information Station

Open through October 11. Hours: daily 9:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, bookstore. Bookstore open through October 3 9:00 AM–5:00 PM.

## Self-Guiding Trails

Slow down, stretch your legs, and discover the sights, smells, and sounds of this park. Some trails traverse areas of thin earth crust, unstable ground, and boiling water; others follow steep-sided, deep canyons and drop-offs. For your safety and the protection of fragile formations and resources, please stay on boardwalks and trails. Trail guides are available at most locations.

### Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces

Travertine terraces such as these are not found anywhere else in the park. As an early visitor described them: "...The hot springs fall over a lofty hill of snowy whiteness, resembling cascades." A walking trail through the Lower Terraces and a one-way drive through the Upper Terraces offer views of these fascinating formations.

### Fort Yellowstone Historic Trail

Most of the buildings constructed in Mammoth during the time that the U.S. Army managed the park (1886–1918) are still standing and are now used by the National Park Service as its headquarters. There is an established walking tour through the major areas of the fort.

### Norris Geyser Basin

Explore the hottest, most active thermal basin in the park. Trails

start at the Geyser Basin Museum. Porcelain Basin is open terrain with hundreds of densely packed geothermal features. The features in the Back Basin are more scattered and isolated. The world's tallest geyser, Steamboat, is here, but its last eruption was in the fall of 1991.

### West Thumb Geyser Basin

Situated on the shore of Yellowstone Lake, the boiling springs in this basin, including the famous Fishing Cone, discharge their waters into the icy lake. With the Absaroka Mountains as a backdrop to the east, this is truly one of the prettiest boardwalk trails you will find anywhere in the park.

### Upper Geyser Basin

The world's largest concentration of geysers is located here, including Old Faithful. But, there is much more to see in this geyser basin after you view that famous feature!

Several miles of trail begin at the visitor center and wind past geysers and hot springs too numerous to count. Names such as Beehive, Grotto, Castle, Spasmodic, Grand, Giant, Riverside, and Morning Glory only hint at the wonders you will see. Stop at the visitor center for orientation and geyser information.

### Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

The Canyon and the Upper and Lower Falls can be seen from overlooks along the rim drives. The North Rim Drive takes you to Inspiration, Grandview, and Lookout Points. A spur road leads to an overlook at the brink of the Upper Falls. The South Rim Drive leads to Uncle Tom's Trail and Artist Point. Trails also wind along both rims.

### Mud Volcano

Discover turbulent and explosive mud pots, including Mud Volcano and Dragon's Mouth. View—and smell—Sulphur Caldron from the overlook just north of the Mud Volcano area; located on the road between Lake and Canyon, 6 miles (9.6 km) north of Fishing Bridge Junction.

### Fountain Paint Pot

Active, ever-changing mud pots; constant geysers; hissing fumaroles; and colorful, boiling hot springs make this area a worthwhile stop. Park in the large parking area 8 miles (12.9 km) north of Old Faithful on the road to Madison Junction and take a leisurely walk through this area.



NPS Photo

## Accessibility Guide Available

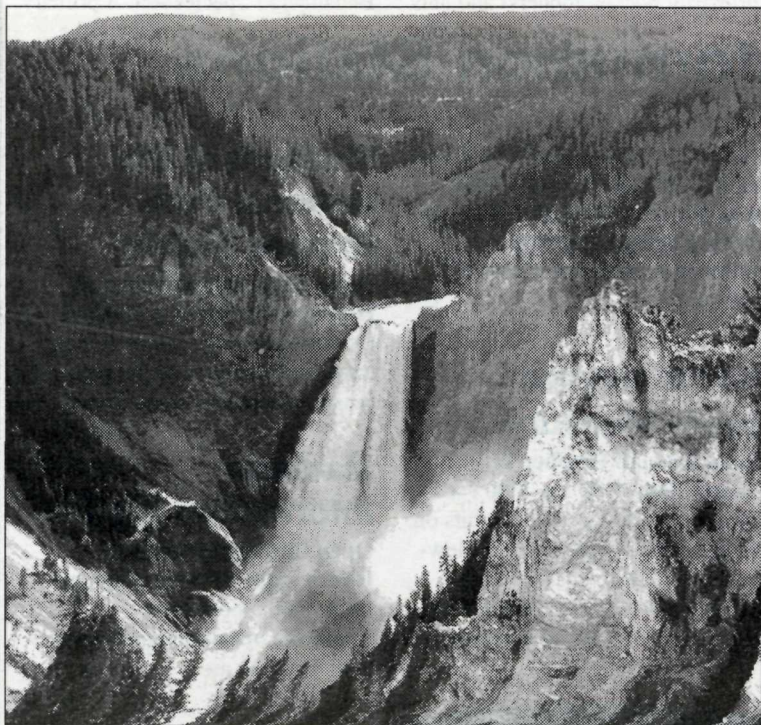
A free *Visitors Guide to Accessible Features in Yellowstone National Park* is available at all entrance stations and visitor centers in the park. This guide describes which facilities have been judged to be negotiable for wheelchair users. Additional facilities are being made accessible as quickly as possible within funding limitations.

For more information, write to the Park Accessibility Coordinator, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; TDD only (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) (307)344-2386.



# Exploring Yellowstone

## Yellowstone Today



NPS Photo

"Now that I'm here, where do I go?" It's not an unusual question, especially for first-time visitors. Consider the facts:

Yellowstone encompasses approximately 2.2 million acres or 3,472 square miles. It is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined and spreads across the borders of three states—Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

Historically, visitors often referred to Yellowstone as "Wonderland," and that may be even more appropriate today. An unparalleled array of geothermal phenomena—geysers, hot springs, steam vents, and mud pots—are preserved here, evidence of a volcanic past and the active earth beneath our feet. But Yellowstone protects much more—spectacular, high mountain scenery; a multitude of lakes, rivers, and streams; and an extraordinary array of wildlife.

With so much to see and do, it's easy to be overwhelmed. The following tips and information will help you plan your time to suit your interests and energy level. Rangers at visitor centers can fill in the details and help you make the most of your visit to Yellowstone.

The park's major scenic attractions are located along the 142 mile (229 km) Grand Loop Road, the figure-eight shaped road in the center of the park. The distance around the Upper Loop is 70 miles (113 km); the Lower Loop, 96 miles (155 km). Actual driving time is difficult to estimate because the maximum speed limit is 45 mph (73 kmph) or

lower where posted; roads are narrow, winding, and full of potholes and frost heaves; and traffic may be heavy and slow moving.

If you have limited time, consider spending it at just one area instead of trying to "see the park" from the road. Many people believe that to fully appreciate just the major attractions in Yellowstone, you must spend at least three days.

### Geysers & Hot Springs

The world's greatest concentration of thermal features is located in Yellowstone: about 10,000 thermal features are known, of which about 300 are geysers. Areas of thermal activity include the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, Firehole Lake Drive, Midway Geyser Basin, Biscuit Basin, Black Sand Basin, and the Old Faithful area. In addition, east of Old Faithful is West Thumb Geyser Basin and north of Yellowstone Lake is Mud Volcano.

### Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone extends from Canyon Village north to Tower Junction. The most famous and spectacular section, including the Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, is seen from overlooks along the North and South Rim roads in the Canyon Village area.

The road between Canyon Village and Tower Junction goes over

Dunraven Pass, the highest road in the park at 8,859 feet (2,700 m). Along the way you will find spectacular views of the Absaroka Mountains, the Yellowstone caldera, and, on a clear day, the Teton Range to the south.

### Lake Area

Yellowstone Lake, with about 110 miles (177 km) of shoreline and approximately 136 square miles (352 sq km) of surface area, is North America's largest mountain lake. The area is prime habitat for a variety of birds and mammals. Nearby, Mud Volcano and West Thumb Geyser Basin hint at a complex geologic history; present activity is unique and ever-changing.

Permits, required for boating, are available at Lake Ranger Station and Grant Village backcountry office. Permits are required for fishing and are available at visitor centers, entrance stations, and Hamilton Stores. See page 6 for more details on fishing in the park.

### Wildlife Viewing

Yellowstone is home to a variety and abundance of wildlife found in few other places in the lower 48 states. It is difficult to describe exactly where wildlife may be seen; habitat preferences and seasonal cycles of movement determine, in a general sense, where a particular animal may be at a particular time. Early morning and late evening hours are when animals tend to feed and, thus, are more easily seen.

Please use pullouts when viewing wildlife and remember that Yellowstone's animals are wild. Animals in the wild behave differently than animals in zoos, and undisturbed space is among the greatest of their needs. Respect this, and you will be rewarded by seeing more of their natural activities and discovering how they live in the wild. Use binoculars or telephoto lenses for your safety and to avoid disturbing them. Spotting (viewing animals with artificial light) and bugling (using artificial wildlife calls) are illegal in Yellowstone.

### History

Mammoth Hot Springs is the site of park headquarters. It is also the site of Fort Yellowstone, built during the Army era (1886 to 1918) of park administration. The former Bachelor Officers' Quarters is now the Albright Visitor Center where

the story of Yellowstone's colorful history is told. There is also a self-guided walking tour through the historic district.

### Services and Facilities

See page 23 for a directory of commercial services. All facilities, accommodations, and services are available from approximately mid-June to late August. Please note opening and closing dates.

General park information is available by calling National Park Service headquarters at (307) 344-7381. Reservations for lodging, camping, and activities such as bus tours, horse rides, or boat rentals may be made through Amfac Parks and Resorts; call (307) 344-7311.

These highlights will help you plan your visit to Yellowstone, but much is left for you to discover. May your visit be safe, rewarding, and memorable.

**When you see this logo, your user fee money is at work in Yellowstone.**

# User Fee

## Yellowstone Entrance Fees

In 1996, Congress authorized a pilot fee program to demonstrate the feasibility of spreading some of the costs of managing public lands among those who use them. Yellowstone and Grand Teton are two of 100 National Park Service units that were selected to participate in the new fee program. The additional funds generated by the fee increase are being used to accomplish projects that the parks have been unable to fund in the past through yearly

Congressional allocations. Funded projects increase the quality of the visitor experience and enhance the protection of park resources. Projects that are planned include new geology exhibits at the Canyon Visitor Center, replacing audiovisual equipment at Old Faithful Visitor Center, parkwide amphitheater and campground upgrades, and funding natural and cultural resource projects throughout the park.

Private, noncommercial automobile	\$20 (7 days, both Yellowstone and Grand Teton)
Individual snowmobile, motorcycle	\$15 (7 days, both parks)
Single entry (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$10 (7 days, both parks)
Annual Permit, both parks	\$40 (one year from date of purchase)
Golden Eagle Passport	\$50 (one year from date of purchase—valid at most federal fee collection areas)
Golden Age Passport	\$10 (one-time fee for lifetime pass—available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. 62 years of age and older)
Golden Access Passport	Free (available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled)

**NOTE: Remember to keep your admission receipt in order to re-enter the park.**



# The "Bear" Facts

## Yellowstone Today

The Yellowstone ecosystem includes not only Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks but also six national forests and state and private lands. Because bears do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, some bears may live either totally inside or outside of Yellowstone while others may use portions of various different agency holdings. Because bears range widely and are usually solitary, it is difficult to count them. The grizzly bear population within the Yellowstone ecosystem is estimated to be between 280 and 610 bears. There is no current estimate of black bear numbers in the ecosystem, but black bears are considered common in the park.

The Yellowstone ecosystem is unique among areas inhabited by grizzly bears in North America because of the diet of the bears here. More than 50% of a Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bear's diet consists of animal protein, ranging from ants and moths to elk and bison. In contrast, in most other ecosystems, more than 80% of a grizzly bear's diet consists of vegetation.

Yellowstone contains some of the largest populations of ungulates (hoofed mammals such as elk, bison, and moose) in North

America. Many of these ungulates winter in areas of the park that are lower in elevation (such as the Lamar Valley and areas around Mammoth Hot Springs) or are thermally influenced. These areas generally have less snow cover and offer better feeding opportunities. However, some of the park's ungulates do not make it through the long harsh winter. When Yellowstone grizzly bears emerge from hibernation around mid-March, there is still a lot of snow and very little vegetation in most of the park consequently, bears move to ungulate winter ranges and feed on the carcasses of animals that have died during the winter.

Because carcasses are such a

significant food source to bears, they will often defend carcasses from other bears or approaching people. Do not approach carcasses in any season as a bear may be nearby. Bears are not the only animal that depends on winter-killed ungulates for survival. Wolves, coyotes, wolverines, badgers, foxes, eagles, ravens, magpies, and carrion beetles all use the carcasses.

In addition to scavenging winter-killed ungulate carcasses, grizzly bears also prey on new elk calves in the spring, usually from mid-May through early July. After early July, most elk calves can outrun bears. Bears then dig for small rodents

(primarily pocket gophers) and ants as well as for vegetation, roots, and tubers and feed on army cutworm moths on high-elevation talus slopes. Amazingly, despite their small size, insects are important, high-protein foods for grizzly bears. During June and July, some bears also feed on spawning cutthroat trout in the Yellowstone Lake area.

The reintroduction of wolves to the park appears to provide bears more opportunities to obtain ungulate meat. During the years following the 1995 release of wolves into the park, bears have been observed successfully taking wolf-killed ungulates away from wolf packs.

Endangered Species Act. A primary goal of that act is to recover the threatened or endangered species to a self-sustaining population. Biologists track the number of female bears with cubs in specific areas each year and document the number of human-caused bear mortalities to assess how the bear is doing. Data from recent years indicates that bears are doing well biologically and may be nearing recovery. However, concerns about the bear's habitat remain, and habitat goals must be established before delisting can be considered. A conservation strategy is being prepared by a team of biologists and federal and state land managers that will define what is needed to ensure the Yellowstone grizzly population remains recovered if and when the bear is removed from the endangered species list.

The chance to watch bears and to see them interacting with other Yellowstone wildlife attracts many visitors to the park. **Please remember to keep your distance from all wildlife, especially bears. This is not only for your safety, but also for their survival. Wild animals need undisturbed space to survive. Enjoy Yellowstone's wildlife from a distance!**



In 1975, the grizzly bear was listed as threatened under the

NPS Photo



## Grizzly or Black?

A small grizzly is often difficult to distinguish from a large black bear. The best way to tell the bears apart is by body shape, with the grizzly's hump and dish-shaped face profile being characteristic. Grizzlies also have a ruff of fur on their necks. Black bears tend to have a straight profile with their rump generally being the highest point of their back while a grizzly bear's shoulder hump is the highest point.

Color is not a good way to distinguish between black and grizzly bears as both species range from pure black to brown or cinnamon or blonde. Grizzly bears frequently have white-tipped body hairs that give them a grizzled or silver-tipped appearance.

Black bears have short, curved claws while grizzlies have longer, straighter claws. While both bears can climb trees, the shape and size of the black bear's claws make them the better climber. Grizzlies, on the other hand, are powerful diggers because of their barely curved claws and their large shoulder muscles.

### GRIZZLY BEAR

Hump present  
Rump lower than shoulders



### BLACK BEAR

Hump absent  
Rump higher than shoulders



## Where are the Bears?

Grizzly bears are active primarily during the night and at dawn and dusk. Look for grizzlies with binoculars or a spotting scope in open meadows around sunrise or sunset. Grizzlies are often seen along the road corridor from Tower south to Canyon, Lake, and Fishing Bridge and east to the East Entrance. In the backcountry, grizzlies are most often seen south and east of Yellowstone Lake and in the Gallatin Mountains in the northwest corner of the park.

Black bears are active mostly during the day and at dawn and dusk. Look for them in small openings within or near forested areas. Black bears are often

seen along the road corridor from Mammoth east to Tower and the Northeast Entrance and in the Old Faithful, Madison, and Canyon areas. Black bears are also seen in the southwestern corner of the park, the Bechler area.

Many visitors remember the days when bears were commonly seen along the roads and within the developed areas of the park. Bears were attracted to these areas by the availability of human foods, either handouts or unsecured camp groceries and garbage. While people enjoyed seeing the bears close up, these encounters resulted in an average of 48 bear-caused human injuries

each year from 1930 through 1969. In 1970, Yellowstone initiated an intensive bear management program with the objectives of restoring the bear populations to subsistence on natural foods and reducing bear-caused human injuries. Regulations against feeding bears and securing human foods out of the bear's reach were strictly enforced. Garbage cans were bear-proofed and garbage dumps within the park were closed. Today, visitors still see bears (an average of 1,500 bear sightings are reported each year), but we are happy to report that bear-caused human injuries have been reduced to approximately one each year.



# Camping & Fishing Information

Yellowstone Today

## Camping in Yellowstone National Park

### First-Come, First-Served Campsites

There are 12 campgrounds in Yellowstone National Park. Seven of these campgrounds are operated by the National Park Service at Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, Mammoth, Norris, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Tower Fall. Sites at these campgrounds are

available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Campsite Reservations

Yellowstone National Park Lodges operates campgrounds at Bridge Bay, Canyon, Grant Village, Madison, and Fishing Bridge RV Park. Reservations can be made by calling (307) 344-7311 or by asking

at lodging activities desks, or by writing Yellowstone National Park Lodges, P.O. Box 165, YNP, WY 82190. Fishing Bridge RV Park is the only campground offering water, sewer, and electrical hookups, and it is for hard-sided vehicles only (no tents or tent trailers are allowed).

**Please make your reservations early and/or plan on securing your campsite as early in the day as possible; campgrounds may fill by early morning, especially during peak season (early July–late August).**

### Camping Rules

Camping or overnight vehicle parking in pullouts, parking areas, picnic grounds, or any place other than a designated campground is not permitted, and there are no overflow camping facilities. However, camping is often available in neighboring communities and forests outside the park.

Camping is limited to 14 days between June 15 and September 15 and to 30 days the rest of the year; there is no limit at Fishing Bridge RV Park. Check-out time for all campgrounds is 10:00 AM.

### Quiet Hours

Camping in Yellowstone is a special experience. Each visitor deserves the opportunity to hear the birds, wildlife, and streams in this beautiful environment. Respect the rights of other campers and comply with

the law by adhering to quiet hours, 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM (10:00 PM–7:00 AM at Fishing Bridge RV Park). No generators, loud audio devices, or other noise disturbances will be allowed during this time. Generators are only permitted in six campgrounds and the Fishing Bridge RV Park (see table at left).

### Golden Age/Access Discount

Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access permits will be given approximately 50% discount on camping fees; this discount does not apply at Fishing Bridge RV Park.

### Group Camping

Group camping areas are available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay campgrounds from late May through closing date for large organized groups with a designated leader such as youth groups or educational groups. The fees range from \$35–\$60 per night, depending on the size of the group. Advance reservations are required and can be made by writing Yellowstone National Park Lodges, P.O. Box 165, YNP, WY 82190 or by phoning (307) 344-7311.

Campground	Sites	Dates	Fee	Elev (ft)	Toilet	Showers/ Laundry Nearby	Dump Station	Generators Permitted (8 AM–8 PM)
Bridge Bay*	430	5/21–9/26	\$15.00**	7,800	Flush		X	X
Canyon*	272	6/4–9/12	15.00**	8,000	Flush	X	X	X
Grant Village*	425	6/21–10/3	15.00**	7,800	Flush	X	X	X
Madison*	280	5/1–11/7	15.00**	6,800	Flush		X	X
Mammoth	85	All Year	12.00	6,200	Flush			X
Norris	116	5/21–9/27	12.00	7,500	Flush			X
Indian Creek	75	6/11–9/20	10.00	7,300	Vault			
Lewis Lake	85	6/11–11/7	10.00	7,800	Vault			
Pebble Creek	32	6/4–9/27	10.00	6,900	Vault			
Slough Creek	29	5/28–10/31	10.00	6,250	Vault			
Tower Fall	32	5/21–9/27	10.00	6,600	Vault			
Fishing Bridge RV*	340	5/14–9/12	25.00**†	7,800	Flush	X	Sewer	X

\*Reserve through Yellowstone National Park Lodges; call (307) 344-7311 or TDD (307) 344-5395.

\*\*Plus sales tax

† 1–4 people

Dates are approximate and may change because of weather or resource management concerns. Bridge Bay, Canyon, Grant Village, and Madison campgrounds all contain accessible sites.

## Fishing Permits and Fees

### Fishing Permits

A permit is required to fish in Yellowstone. Anglers 16 years of age and older are required to purchase either a \$10 ten-day or a \$20 season permit. Anglers 12–15 years of age are required to obtain a non-fee permit; those 11 years and younger may fish without a permit but should be supervised by an adult who knows the regulations. Permits are available at all ranger stations, visitor centers, and Hamilton General Stores. **No state fishing license is required in Yellowstone National Park.**

### Fishing Season

With some exceptions, Yellowstone's fishing season begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues through the first Sunday of November. Major exceptions are Yellowstone Lake, where the fishing season opens June 1, and Yellowstone Lake's tributary streams, which open July 15. The Yellowstone River and its tributaries between Canyon and Yellowstone Lake open for fishing on July 15. Please refer to park fishing regulations for additional special information or the park web-site at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/fishing.htm>.

### Fishing Regulations

In Yellowstone, bald eagles, osprey, pelicans, otters, grizzly bears, and other wildlife take precedence over humans as consumers of fish. Additionally, all fish are wild (there is no stocking), so there must be sufficient adult fish to reproduce and maintain populations and to assure genetic

diversity. Consequently, recreational fishing in Yellowstone is strictly regulated. In many waters, fishing is catch-and-release only. In waters where fish caught may be kept, limits are enforced.

Fishing regulations in Yellowstone National Park have evolved as ongoing research reveals population trends and interrelationships with the rest of the Yellowstone ecosystem. The increasing numbers of anglers have also influenced the development of regulations because of their impact on certain species and aquatic habitats. **Know the regulations for the waters you intend to fish!**

Park fishing regulations are available at any ranger station, visitor center, or Hamilton General Store.

### Non-Toxic Fishing

Yellowstone National Park has implemented a non-toxic fishing program. Fishing tackle, such as leaded split-shot sinkers, weighted jigs (lead molded to a hook), and soft lead-weighted ribbons for nymph fishing, are no longer allowed. Only non-toxic alternatives are allowed to accompany these types of fishing tackle. For more information, contact the Chief Ranger's Office, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

See page 18 for more information on the fisheries and aquatic ecosystems of Yellowstone National Park.

## Native Grayling (Catch and Release Only)





# Hiking & Backpacking

## Yellowstone Today

Yellowstone National Park, with about 2.2 million acres, is one of America's premier wilderness areas. Most of the park is backcountry and managed as wilderness. More than 800 miles (1,280 km) of trails are available for hiking. However, there are dangers inherent in wilderness—including unpredictable wildlife; changing weather conditions; remote thermal

areas; cold water lakes; turbulent streams; and rugged mountains with loose, "rotten" rock. Visiting wilderness means experiencing the land on its terms. If you choose to explore and enjoy the natural wonders of Yellowstone, there is no guarantee of your safety. Be prepared for any situation! Carefully read all backcountry guidelines and regulations.

## Backcountry Rules

To preserve Yellowstone's backcountry and enhance your wilderness experience, the National Park Service has established the following regulations and guidelines. **Contact a park ranger before you begin a day hike or overnight trip.**

### Permits

Yellowstone National Park has a designated backcountry campsite system; permits are required for all overnight trips. Permits must be obtained at a ranger station no more than 48 hours before your camping date. Advance reservations for some backcountry campsites may be made in writing or in person for a \$15 fee. To obtain the necessary forms, write the Backcountry Office, P.O. Box 168, YNP, WY 82190 or check at a ranger station. Permits are required for fishing and are available at visitor centers, entrance stations, and Hamilton General Stores. See page 6 for more details on fishing in the park.

### Limits

Each designated campsite has a maximum limit for the number of people and stock allowed per night. The maximum stay per campsite varies from 1 to 3 nights per trip. Due to bear activity, some hiking and camping restrictions may apply. **Firearms, pets, motorized equipment, and any type of wheeled vehicle are prohibited in the backcountry.**

### Campfires

Campfires are permitted only in established fire pits. Burn only dead-and-down wood. Wood and ground fires are not allowed in some campsites. Your fire must be attended at all times and be completely extinguished before you leave.

### Pack it in—Pack it out

All refuse must be carried out of the backcountry. This includes items partly burned in fire pits (foil, tin, glass, etc).

### Sanitation

Bury human waste 6 to 8 inches (15–20 cm) below the ground and a minimum of 100 feet (30 m) from water. Waste water should be disposed of at least 100 feet (30 m) from water or a campsite. Do not pollute lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams by washing yourself, clothing, or dishes in them.

### Should You Drink the Water?

Intestinal infections from drinking untreated water are increasingly common. Waters may be polluted by animal and/or human wastes. When possible, carry a supply of water from a domestic source. If you drink water from lakes or streams, boil it a minimum of two minutes to reduce the chance of infection or disease.

### Storms

Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable. A sunny warm day may become fiercely stormy with wind,

rain, sleet, and, sometimes, snow. Lightning storms are common; get off water or beaches and stay away from ridges, exposed places, and isolated trees.

Without adequate clothing and gear, an easy day hike or boat trip can turn into a battle for survival. Exposure to wind, rain, or cold can result in hypothermia. This rapid loss of body heat can cause death if not treated. Early warning signs include shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Get into dry clothes and drink warm fluids at the first signs of hypothermia.

### Stock Use

Overnight stock (horses, mules, burros, and llamas) use is **not permitted prior to July 1**, due to range readiness and/or wet trail conditions. Horses are not allowed in frontcountry campgrounds.

### Stream Crossings

Fording a stream can be hazardous,

especially during spring snowmelt or high water. Check at local ranger stations for current trail and stream conditions.

### Trails

Yellowstone has more than 800 miles (1,280 km) of trails, allowing access to all major backcountry lakes, numerous waterfalls, mountain peaks, and thermal areas. Trails are minimally marked in keeping with the wilderness nature of the backcountry. Cross-country travel is difficult because of the terrain and the amount of downed trees. A good map and knowing how to use it are important to the backcountry hiker.

## Hiking and Camping in Bear Country

**A**lthough the risk of an encounter with a bear is low, there are no guarantees of your safety. Minimize your risks by following the guidelines below.

### A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

Do not leave packs containing food unattended, even for a few minutes. Allowing a bear to obtain human food even once often results in the bear becoming aggressive about obtaining such food in the future. Aggressive bears present a threat to human safety and eventually may be destroyed or removed from the park.

### While Hiking

Make bears aware of your presence on trails by making loud noises such as shouting or singing. This lessens the chance of sudden encounters, which are the cause of most bear-caused human injuries in the park.

Hike in groups and use caution where vision is obstructed. Do not hike after dark. Avoid carcasses; bears often defend this source of food.

### If You Encounter a Bear

Do not run. Bears can run 30 mph (48 kmph), or 44 feet/second (13 meters/second), faster than Olympic sprinters. Running may elicit an attack from an otherwise non-aggressive bear. If the bear is unaware of you, detour away from the bear. If the bear is aware of you and nearby but has not acted aggressively, slowly back away.

Tree climbing to avoid bears is popular advice, but not very practical in many circumstances. All black bears, all grizzly cubs, and some adult grizzlies can climb trees. Running to a tree may provoke an otherwise uncertain bear to chase you.

### If a Bear Approaches or Charges You

Do not run. Some bears will bluff their way out of a threatening situation by charging, then veering off or stopping abruptly at the last second. Bear experts generally recommend standing still until the bear stops and then slowly backing away. If you are attacked, play dead. Drop to the ground, lift your legs up to your chest, and clasp your hands over the back of your neck. This technique has been especially successful with female bears that have cubs.

Another method of protection is the use of pepper spray. It has been effective in more than 90% of the reported instances that it was used. When you hike in bear country, pepper spray must be immediately available, NOT in your pack. Know how to use pepper spray before you need it!

### When Camping

Never camp in an area that has obvious evidence of bear activity such as digging, tracks, scat, or where animal carcasses are present.

Odors attract bears. Avoid carrying or cooking odorous foods. Keep a clean camp; do not cook or store food in your tent. All food, garbage, or other odorous items used for preparing or cooking food must be secured from bears. Hang all such items at least 10 feet (3 m) above the ground and at least 4 feet (1.2 m) out from tree trunks. Treat all odorous products such as soap, deodorant, or toiletries in the same manner as food.

Sleep a minimum of 100 yards (91m) from where you hang, cook, and eat your food. Keep your sleeping gear clean and free of food odor. Don't sleep in the same clothes worn while cooking and eating; hang those clothes in plastic bags.



# Yellowstone's Wildlife

Yellowstone Today

## Wolves—Once Missing, But Now Back Home in Yellowstone

**W**olves ranged widely throughout North America, including the Yellowstone region, prior to Europeans settling this continent. But, where colonists settled, wolves were quickly eliminated. In the 1800s, westward expansion brought settlers and their livestock into direct contact with native predator and prey species. Much of the wolves' prey base was destroyed as agriculture flourished. With their prey base removed, wolves began to feed on domestic livestock. The end result was that wolves (and many other predators) were hunted down and removed from most of their historic range. By the early 1900s, wolves were gone from the 48 contiguous states (except for northern Minnesota and Michigan's Isle Royale), even in places where there was no livestock like Yellowstone.

The last gray wolves were killed in Yellowstone by the 1930s. Within two decades, biologists were aware of the lack of foresight shown by that act. With an increasing understanding of the complex relationships that exist in nature, it was recognized that elimination of a species could upset a delicate natural balance that had evolved through centuries. For example, while wolves will kill any large animal they can bring down, the nature of predator-prey relationships means that wolves will kill more of the young, the very old, and the sick

than of healthy animals in their prime. Thus, wolves will help keep a prey population fit.

By the 1960s, a national awareness of environmental issues and consequences led to the passage of many laws that were designed to correct the mistakes of the past and help prevent similar mistakes in the future. One such law was the Endangered Species Act, which

requires federal agencies to recover endangered species that have been eliminated from their natural habitat. National Park Service policy also calls for restoration of native species where possible.

The long, complex, and difficult process of wolf restoration began in earnest in the late 1970s. An extensive and lengthy research and

public review process culminated in an environmental impact statement being approved in 1994 that established guidelines for wolf recovery in three areas of the Rocky Mountains, including the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. It contained special management rules to aid the wolf recovery process while recognizing the importance of the livestock industry to the region's economy.

The recovery process began when 14 wolves were captured in western Canada and transported to Yellowstone in January 1995. After weeks of acclimation in one-acre holding pens, these wolves were released into the wild. The process was repeated in 1996 with 17 more wolves. Today about 150 wild, free-ranging wolves live here, in and outside the park.

By federal law, recovery of the gray wolf will be accomplished when it can be documented that there are 10 pairs of wolves breeding for three successive years in each of the three recovery areas (the Yellowstone ecosystem, central Idaho, and northwestern Montana). Biologists have evidence of 11 wolf packs in Yellowstone, 14 packs in Idaho, and 8 packs in northwestern Montana as of summer 1999.



NPS Photo

### Where are the Wolves?

**Y**ellowstone National Park is home to one of the greatest concentrations of free-roaming, large mammals in the lower 48 states. With the reintroduction of the gray wolf, the variety of species found here now includes all those animals that were wandering these hills when Europeans first arrived in the region. While Yellowstone's animals have delighted visitors for more than 125 years, the public's enthusiasm for wolves has been extraordinary. From the moment the first wolves were released into the wild in the spring of 1995, visitors have gathered to look for them and watch what would happen. Each year, there have been outstanding opportunities for wolf watching, especially in the Lamar Valley. Watchers have observed wolves playing, resting, chasing and bringing down elk, and interacting with grizzly bears and coyotes at carcasses. As the population of wolves has grown in Yellowstone, the chances to view this magnificent predator have also increased, and wolf sightings have been confirmed in nearly every area of the park.

### Natural History of the Gray Wolf

**W**olves are social animals that live in hierarchical groups called packs. Most packs number 2 to 8 animals. The pack is a highly evolved and complex social family, with leaders (the alpha male and female) and subordinates (this year's pups; some of the pups' older siblings; and, occasionally, other unrelated wolves), each having individual personality traits. Wolves are sexually mature at two years of age, but normally only the alpha pair of the pack mate. Dispersal of subordinate wolves sometimes occurs at one year of age, but more often at two years. These wolves will often wander by themselves for a time before finding a mate or joining another pack. Wolves rarely live more than 10 years in the wild, dying from conflicts with other wolves, disease, starvation, or injuries sustained while attacking prey.

Wolves are the largest member of the dog family (Canidae), and generally average 70 to 120 pounds. Wolves are 5 to 6 feet long (from nose to tip of tail) and stand about 3 feet at the shoulder. The legs of a wolf are quite long (as opposed to the coyote), and its feet are large. Wolves are well insulated with thick, soft underfur covered by long guard hairs, which shed moisture; their coats range in color from white to tan to gray to black. The thick, bushy tail of a wolf tells a lot about the place the animal occupies in the hierarchy of the pack; dominant animals hold their tail straight out while subordinate animals drop their tail during confrontations. The famous howl of the wolf is an eerie and haunting sound, the essence of wilderness to many. Wolves howl to announce their presence, warn

strange wolves away from their territory, help pack members locate each other, express the relationships of dominance and dependence in the pack, and (some believe) for the sheer joy of it.

Wolf litters, averaging 6 pups, are born in early spring in an excavated burrow. Pups are born blind, deaf, with fur, and weigh about a pound. Normally, only about half of the pups survive the first year, and caring for the pups is a top priority for each pack member. Pups are allowed great deference in their interactions with adults, and there is much face licking and nuzzling of the adults, excited play, and huddling around them when the adults lie down. After the pups are weaned, the adults feed them with meat regurgitated from kills until the pups are old enough to accompany the pack on hunts.

Wolves establish territories that vary in size depending on the availability of prey. These territories are scent-marked with urine and defended vigorously. Wolves prey on elk, deer, and moose, and, in Yellowstone, wolves have also killed bison and pronghorn. Small mammals, such as beaver and hares, may be seasonally important to wolves or as practice prey for pups learning to hunt. Wolves typically rest during midday and hunt early in the morning and in the evening when their prey are feeding. Wolves risk injury or death in the effort to bring down a large ungulate and may make many unsuccessful attempts before obtaining a meal. It is only through cooperation and skill that a wolf pack can bring down an elk or bison.



# Discover Yellowstone

Autumn 1999

A listing of things you can do on your own or with a Ranger-Naturalist as well as other special events and experiences available in and around Yellowstone National Park.

## New Visitor Center Planned at Old Faithful



Yellowstone National Park has launched an initiative to build a new \$10 million visitor center at Old Faithful after receiving a \$1.25 million grant and a commitment to further fund raising efforts from Unilever Home and Personal Care USA. Other public-spirited corporations, foundations, and individuals, including the National Park Foundation, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the Yellowstone Association, and the World Foundation for Environment and Development, have also joined the effort.

Old Faithful Geyser is a landmark of worldwide renown and is visited by more than 85% of the 3.1 million people who come to Yellowstone each year. On peak days during July and August, more than 25,000 visitors are in the area awaiting eruptions of Old Faithful and exploring the geyser basin, which contains the greatest concentration of geysers found anywhere in the world. The need for information, orientation,

and educational services at Old Faithful is considerable. Unfortunately, those needs are not being met. The existing visitor center is too small, was poorly designed, contains no interpretive exhibits, and the auditorium lacks sufficient seating for the numbers of visitors wanting to see films. The film that is currently shown was produced 30 years ago and is extremely outdated with respect to current scientific understanding of the geyser basin features. The situation results in visitors who are frequently confused and who often leave the Upper Geyser Basin area without an understanding of the unique, fragile, and priceless natural resources they have observed.

While the need for a new visitor center at Old Faithful has been recognized for years, more pressing problems (deteriorating roads, failing sewer systems, public facilities that are unsafe) have taken precedence in Yellowstone for National

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Printing for this *Discover Yellowstone* has been funded by a generous donation from the Yellowstone Association.

Park Service funding. The promise of donated funds will allow the Park Service to begin the planning for a new visitor center. The facility will be larger, fully accessible, energy efficient, of sustainable design, and built with environmentally friendly construction materials and techniques. At the same time the building will be designed to fit into the historic landscape. There will be 10,000 square feet of exhibit space that allows visitors to discover a "window on the Earth," with interactive exhibits, computer animations and simulations, videos, and films. Two new interpretive films are already being produced through the efforts of some of the partners in this initiative. It is hoped that the new visitor center will be opened in about five years. If you wish to contribute to the Old Faithful Visitor Center initiative, please contact the Yellowstone Park Foundation at (406) 586-6303 or by writing them at 37 East Main, Suite 4, Bozeman, Montana 59715 (website: <http://www.ypf.org>).

## Autumn Highlights

### YELLOWSTONE REVEALED

A new film focusing on the amazing life forms thriving in Yellowstone's geothermal features will be shown at Old Faithful Visitor Center this fall. Created for Yellowstone by the World Foundation for Environment and Development and narrated by Walter Cronkite, this film describes a dimension of the park that few visitors may be aware of—a microscopic world of such immense biological diversity that it has some-

times been compared to that of tropical rainforests! The film was co-produced by WFED with Kurtis Productions, Ltd., of Chicago, with music composed by Grammy Award winner Chip Davis and performed by Mannheim Steamroller. SONY Electronics, Inc., has donated video projectors and other audiovisual equipment to the Old Faithful Visitor Center so that Yellowstone's visitors can fully experience the stunning beauty of this production.

### WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

This exhibit will be featured throughout the 1999 season at Canyon Visitor Center. A collaboration between the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and Yellowstone National Park, this exhibit tells the story of Yellowstone's bison, their natural history, and the issues associated with their management. Two large dioramas of bison in natural settings form the centerpiece of this popular exhibition.

## Yellowstone on the Web

To first-time visitors, Yellowstone can be overwhelming. Even repeat visitors to the park have questions and need up-to date information. Now there is an easy way to find out everything you ever wanted to know about Yellowstone National Park before you arrive (or after you get home and remember the questions you wished you had asked!). Using your Internet connection at home or from your local library, you can visit our new web site where you will find a wealth of information, including sections on "Planning a Visit," "Visiting Online," "Nature," "History," "Technical Information," and Publications." There is even a special section called "Kids' Stuff" where children can access a Yellowstone Animal Alphabet Book, Coloring Book Pages, or an Antler/Horn Match Game. In that game, they can place different antlers or horns on an animal's head, making some truly bizarre-looking creatures! There is something for everyone on Yellowstone's new, official web site. Visit us online at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell).



# Ranger-led Programs

## Yellowstone Today

A variety of programs led by park ranger are offered throughout the summer in Yellowstone. You are encouraged to attend these programs to learn more about the park. Park rangers also rove through the geyser basins, along the Canyon rims, and in areas where wildlife gather to answer your questions.

Evening campfire programs are presented nightly at Mammoth, Norris, Madison, Old Faithful, Grant, Bridge Bay, Fishing Bridge, and Canyon; three times a week at Lewis Lake; twice a week at Tower Fall; and once a week at Pebble Creek. Refer to the program listings for each area for times and locations. Most programs take place later in the evening so that slides can be shown in the darkness. Come prepared with rain gear, warm clothes, and flashlights. Each program is individually developed by the park rangers and is based on one of seven different themes:

**The National Park Idea:** Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the number and diversity of parks has grown nationally and worldwide. Yellowstone's role in the evolution of this idea and how the idea has impacted global conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources are explored.

**The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:** Yellowstone is the core of the largest intact temperate ecosystem remaining in the world. Find out how the political boundaries and differing management philosophies affect this immense natural reserve

**The History of Yellowstone:** Humans have been present in

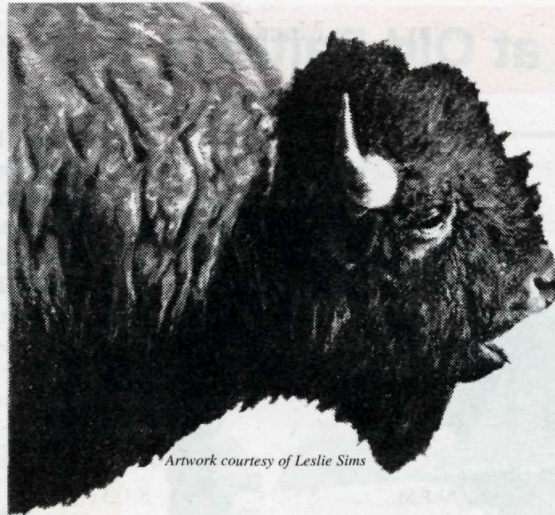
this area for more than 10,000 years. Explore the cultural history of Yellowstone from the early hunter/gatherer to today's park visitor.

**Exploring the Issues of Yellowstone:** Management of Yellowstone's resources and visitors is rarely clear-cut and is often controversial. Find out about some of these issues, and the research, planning, and public involvement necessary for the decisions that are made.

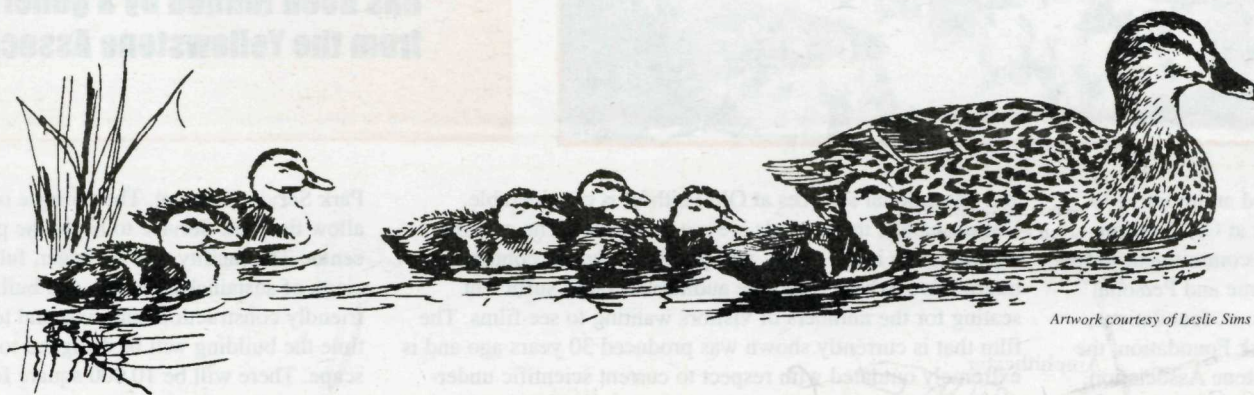
**Geology of Yellowstone:** Yellowstone is one of the most geologically dynamic areas on earth. Discover how these geologic processes affect the scenery and the living inhabitants of this area.

**Wildlife of Yellowstone:** Yellowstone and the surrounding ecosystem are home to large numbers and a fantastic variety of wildlife species. Learn about the habits and habitats of the park's wildlife.

**The Aquatic World of Yellowstone:** Yellowstone's rivers and lakes provide rich habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Learn about Yellowstone's aquatic world.



Artwork courtesy of Leslie Sims



Artwork courtesy of Leslie Sims

## Canyon Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—Walking the Canyon Rim</b> 9/7–9/28 Meet at Uncle Tom's trail parking area on the South Rim Drive (road to Artist Point). Words can hardly convey the startling beauty of the Yellowstone River, its Grand Canyon and spectacular waterfalls. Explore the geology and natural history behind the scenery. 1 to 2 hours.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.
<b>Talk—The Yellowstone's Canyon</b> Meet on the lower platform at Artist Point on the Canyon South Rim Drive. From a classic viewpoint, enjoy the Lower Falls, the Yellowstone River, and the spectacular colors of the canyon while learning about the area's geology and history. Discover why artists and photographers have been drawn to this special place. 20-30 minutes. &	2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28	2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28		2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28	2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28	2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28	2:30 P.M. 3:30 P.M. 9/7–9/12; 3:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 9/13–9/28
<b>Evening Programs</b> 9/7–9/12 Meet at the Canyon Campground Amphitheater.* Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at Visitor Centers for program titles and descriptions. 45 minutes. &	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.		8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
*Weather and snow levels permitting.							

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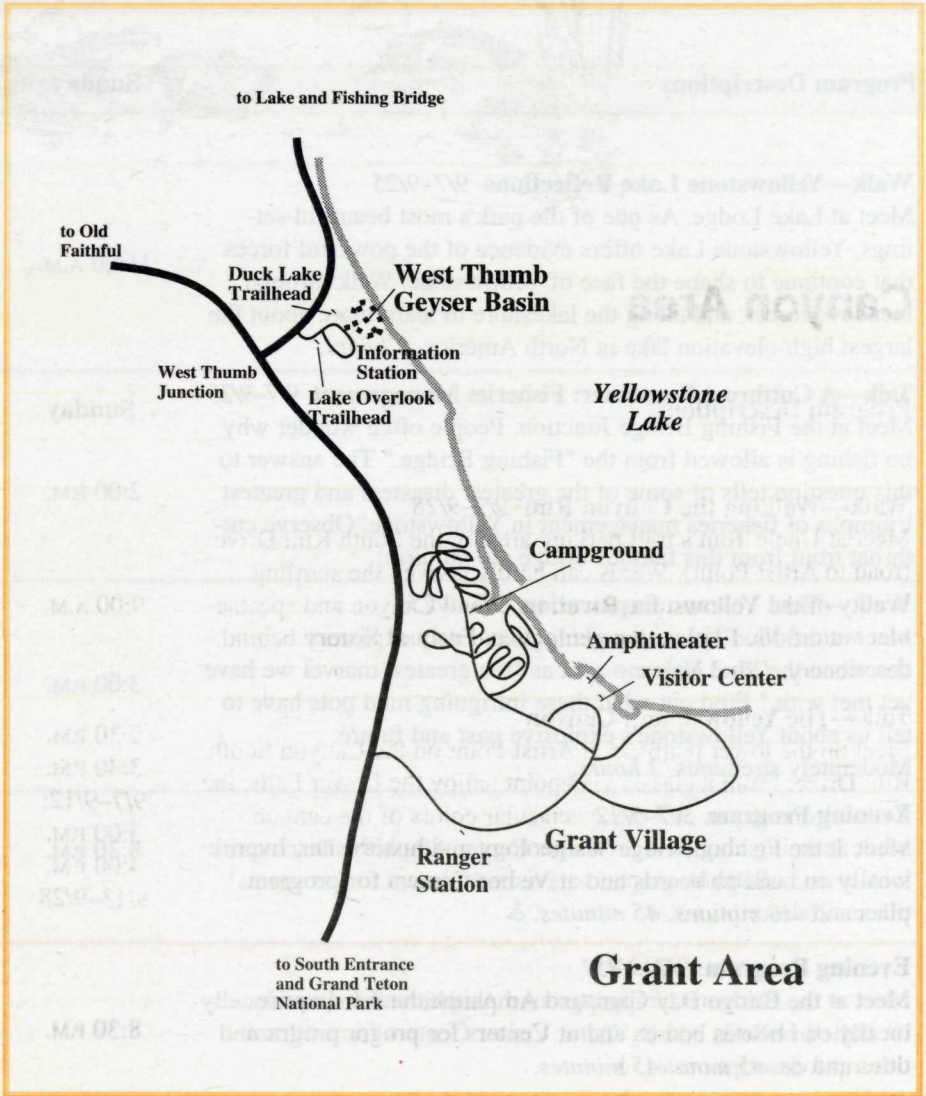
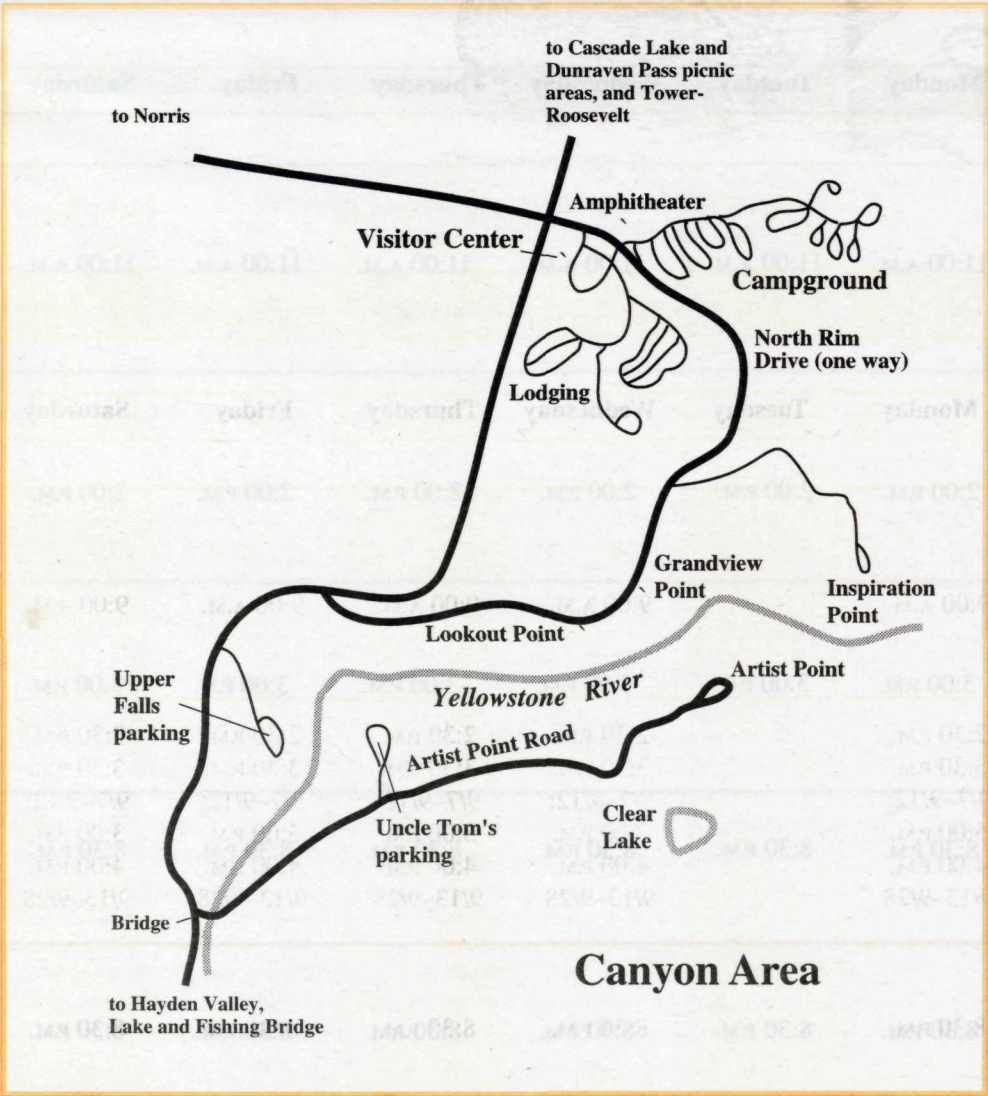
# Ranger-led Programs

Yellowstone Today

Program listings are subject to change

## Grant Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—Lakeshore Geologic Discovery</b> 9/7–9/18 Meet near the West Thumb Geyser Basin Information Station. Explore the origins of azure blue hot pools, belching mud pots, glittering geysers, and the area's explosive geologic past. Watch for bison, eagles, and osprey as you stroll through this dynamic geyser basin on the shores of Yellowstone Lake. 1 1/2 hours. & with assistance.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 a.m. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.	11:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.
<b>Evening Program</b> 9/7–9/18 Meet at the Grant Visitor Center. (Enter through the side door.) Join a park ranger for this slide-illustrated presentation focusing on the natural, cultural, or historic resources and issues of Yellowstone National Park. Inquire at the Grant Village Visitor Center for program titles and descriptions. 45 minutes. &	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.

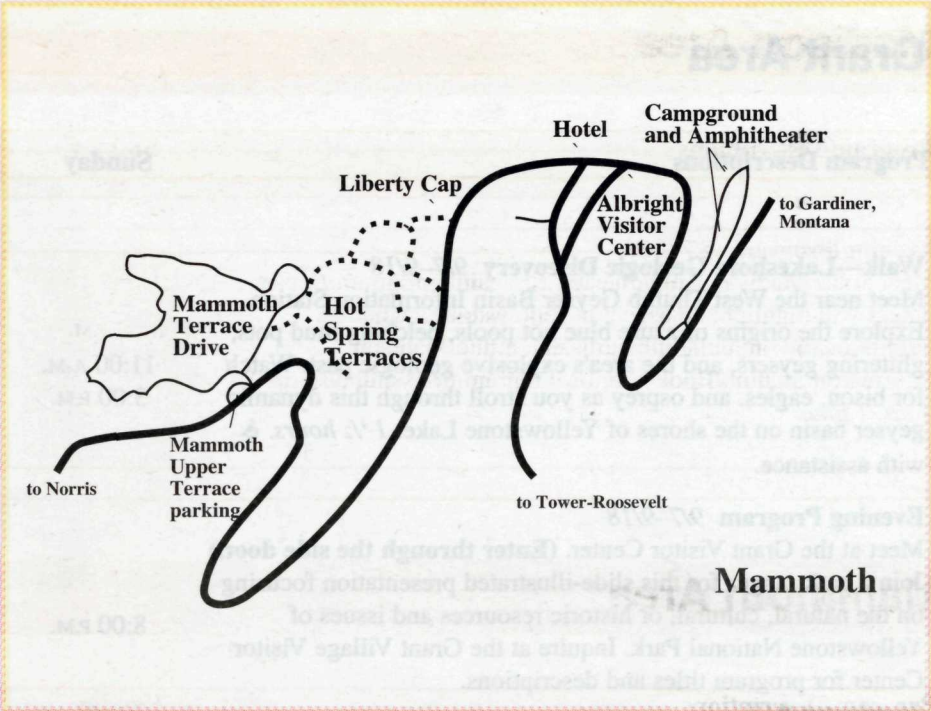
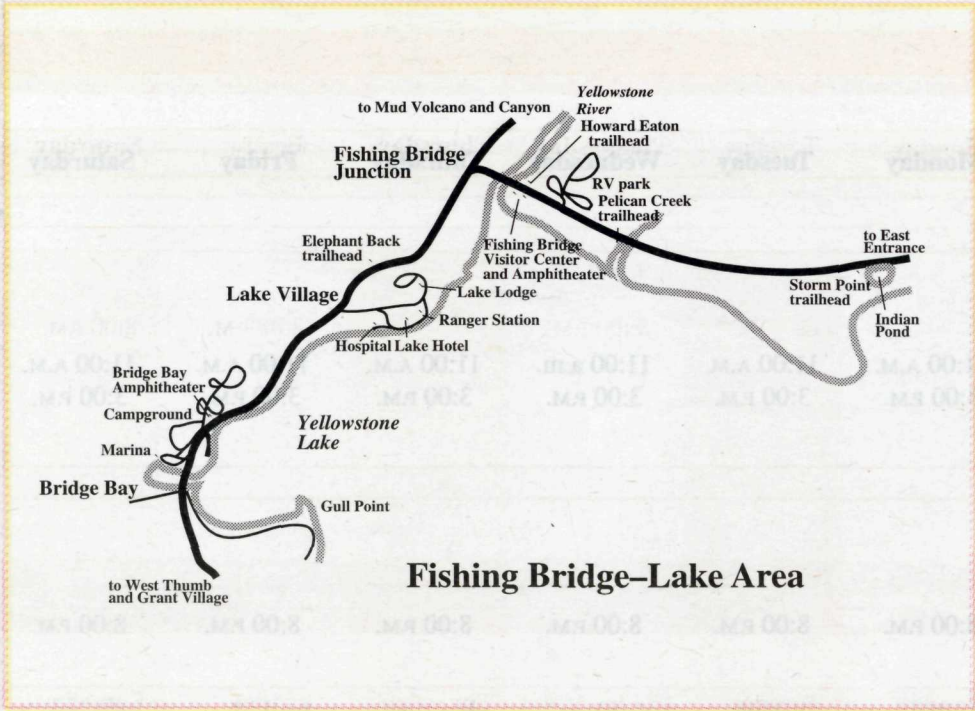


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# Ranger-led Programs

Yellowstone Today



## Lake Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—Yellowstone Lake Reflections</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet at Lake Lodge. As one of the park's most beautiful settings, Yellowstone Lake offers evidence of the powerful forces that continue to shape the face of Yellowstone. Walk through meadow, forest, and along the lakeshore to learn more about the largest high-elevation lake in North America. 2 hours.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.
<b>Talk—A Cutthroat Encounter: Fisheries Management</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet at the Fishing Bridge Junction. People often wonder why no fishing is allowed from the "Fishing Bridge." The answer to this question tells of some of the greatest disasters and greatest triumphs of fisheries management in Yellowstone. Observe cutthroat trout from this famous bridge. 20 minutes.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.
<b>Walk—Mud Volcano Exploration</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet at the Mud Volcano parking area. Early explorers described the Mud Volcano area as "the greatest marvel we have yet met with." Find out what these intriguing mud pots have to tell us about Yellowstone's explosive past and future. Moderately strenuous. 2 hours.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
<b>Evening Program</b> 9/7–9/12 Meet at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center Amphitheater. Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at Visitor Centers for program titles and descriptions. 45 minutes. &	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
<b>Evening Program</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet at the Bridge Bay Campground Amphitheater. Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at Visitor Centers for program titles and descriptions. 45 minutes.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.	8:30 P.M.

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# Ranger-led Programs

Yellowstone Today

Program listings are subject to change

## Madison Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Evening Program</b> 9/7–9/26 Meet at the Madison Amphitheater for a slide program. A park ranger will highlight an aspect of Yellowstone's wonders. Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at the Madison Information Station/Bookstore for program titles and descriptions. <i>1 hour.</i>	8:00 P.M.			8:00 P.M.		8:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.

## Mammoth Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—The Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet at the Upper Terrace Drive entrance parking lot, along the Mammoth–Norris road, 1 1/2 miles south of Mammoth Village. Explore Yellowstone's colorful geologic past and present through the rainbow hues of Mammoth Hot Springs. Learn how these dynamic terraces of travertine are unique among the park's thermal basins. First half &. <i>1 1/2 hours.</i>	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.
<b>Talk—Yellowstone's Wildlife</b> 9/7–9/25 Meet in front of the Albright Visitor Center. Yellowstone is world famous for its abundant wildlife, and a diversity of wildlife make Yellowstone their home. Join a park ranger to find out more about Yellowstone's wildlife and some of the issues surrounding them. <i>20–30 minutes.</i> &	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.

## Norris Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—Norris Geyser Basin Walk</b> Meet at the Norris Geyser Basin Museum. Norris is the hottest, most dynamic, and oldest geyser basin in the park. Join us on a walk through this magical land of hot springs, geysers, steam vents, and other oddities. Bring water, sunglasses, and curiosity. <i>1 1/2 hours.</i>	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11	10:30 A.M. 9/7–9/30; 3:30 P.M. 9/7–10/11
<b>Talk—Norris Geyser Basin Talk</b> 9/7–9/30 Meet at the Norris Geyser Basin Museum for a 20-minute talk to discover more about the unique and fascinating thermal features of the Norris area. Check at the museum for a description of each day's talk. <i>20 minutes.</i>	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.

& = Accessible



# Ranger-led Programs

Yellowstone Today



Outdoor programs are subject to cancellation due to dangerous weather conditions!

## Tower/Roosevelt Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk-Lost Lake Trail 9/7-9/25</b> Meet at the Petrified Tree parking area, two miles west of Tower/Roosevelt. Northern Yellowstone's geology and climate are different than elsewhere in the park. See how this affects the plant and animal life of the area as you hike this quiet, fairly level trail with a park ranger. 1 1/2 hours.	10:00 A.M.						
<b>Walk-Above the Yellowstone River 9/7-9/25</b> Meet at the Yellowstone River Picnic Area trailhead, approx. one mile east of Tower/Roosevelt. Be sure to park in the large pullout just west of the picnic area. Explore the lower reaches of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone from a high vantage point along the canyon rim. Come see evidence of the unique geologic history and diverse wildlife of this delightful area of Yellowstone. Moderately strenuous; wear sturdy shoes. 1 1/2 hours.			10:00 A.M.				
<b>Talk-Tower Fall 9/7-9/25</b> Meet at the Tower Fall trailhead near the Hamilton Store. Find out about the fascinating history, wildlife, and geology of the Tower area. Topics vary; inquire locally. 20-30 minutes. &	2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.			2:00 P.M. 4:00 P.M.
<b>Evening Program-Tower Fall 9/7-9/25</b> Meet at the Tower Fall Campground amphitheater for an illustrated program. Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at Visitor Centers for program titles and descriptions. 1 hour.		8:30 P.M.					
<b>Evening Program-Pebble Creek 9/7-9/25</b> Meet at the Pebble Creek Campground campfire circle. Join a park ranger for an informal evening talk. Inquire locally on bulletin boards and at Visitor Centers for program titles and descriptions. 45 minutes.							8:00 P.M.

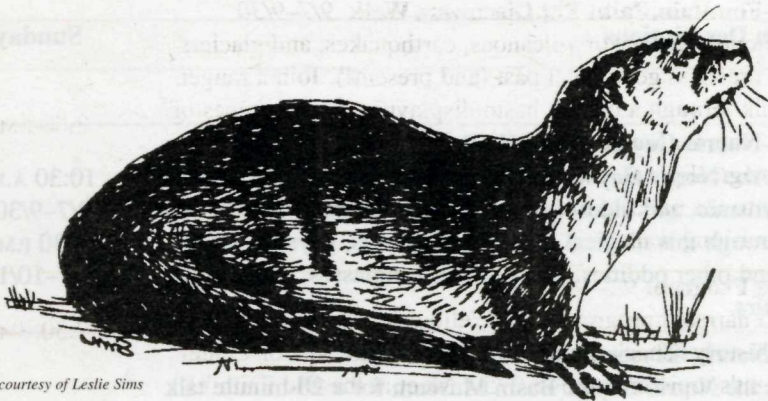
## Junior Rangers



Yellowstone National Park has an official Junior Ranger Program open to children between 5 and 12 years of age. The goal of the program is to

introduce children to the natural wonders of Yellowstone and their role in preserving them for the future.

To become a Junior Ranger, children pay a \$2.00 fee for the activity paper, *Yellowstone's Nature*, available in any visitor center. After completing the requirements described in the paper, children return to any visitor center and are awarded an official Junior Ranger patch. Requirements include attending a Ranger-Naturalist program, hiking on a park trail, and completing activities about Yellowstone National Park. Both children and adults will benefit by sharing the fun of becoming a Junior Ranger. **The Junior Ranger program ends on September 30.**



Artwork courtesy of Leslie Sims

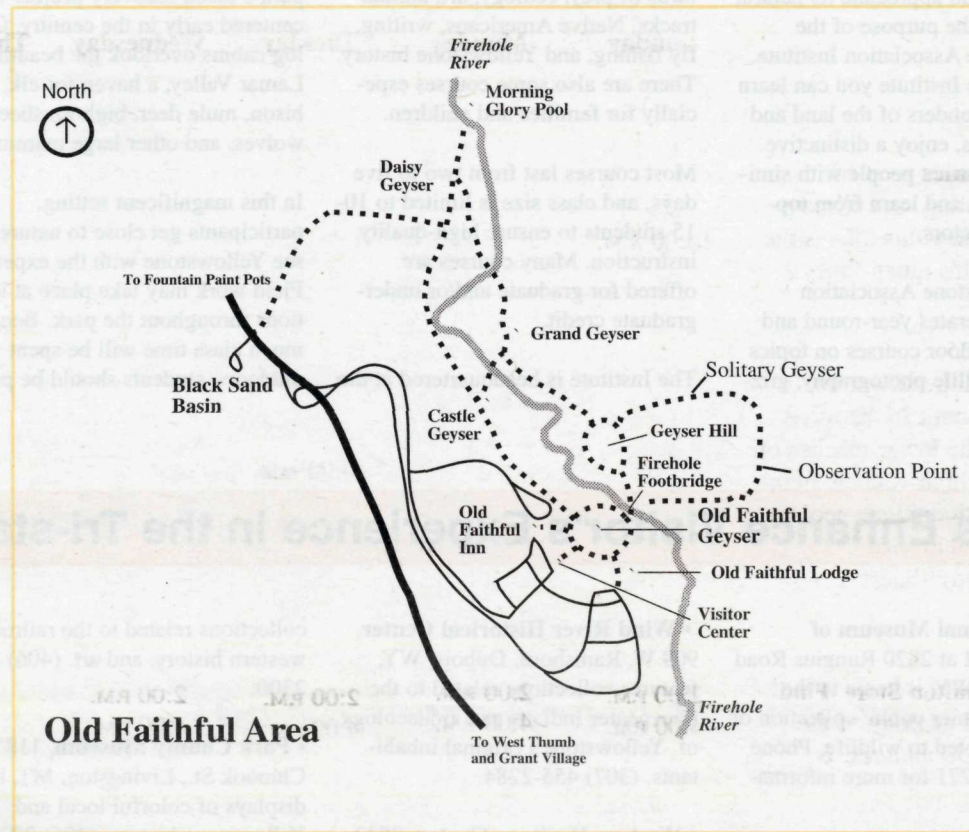


# Ranger-led Programs

Yellowstone Today



Outdoor programs are subject to cancellation due to dangerous weather conditions!



## Old Faithful Area

Program Descriptions	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Walk—Geyser Geology Walk 9/7–9/30</b> Learn the ins-and-outs of one of the rarest geological features on earth—geysers! Accompany a ranger through the Upper Geyser Basin exploring the world of geysers. Meet at Castle Geyser, 1/2 mile west of Old Faithful (15-minute walk from the Visitor Center), for this one and a half mile, 90 minute program.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.
<b>Walk—Fountain Paint Pot Discovery Walk 9/7–9/30</b> Yellowstone's history of volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers reveals a restless geological past (and present!). Join a ranger for a walk through a unique basin displaying the four types of thermal features found in Yellowstone and discover why this is such a magical place. Meet at the beginning of the boardwalk, adjacent to the parking lot, at Fountain Paint Pot for this 3/4 mile, hour-long walk.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.
<b>Evening Program 9/7–9/30</b> This is a narrated program about Yellowstone's cultural and or natural history. Check the bulletin board in the Visitor Center for tonight's topic or call 545-2750. Meet at the Old Faithful Visitor Center Auditorium and allow 1 hour for this program. &	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.

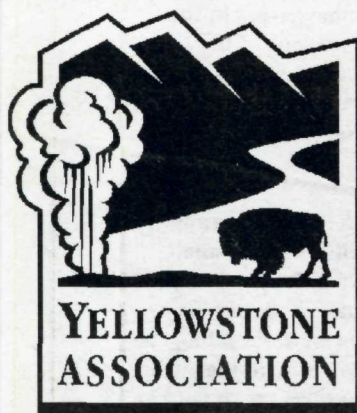
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# Other Activities

Yellowstone Today

## Study Nature with the Yellowstone Association Institute



Exploring Yellowstone to understand and appreciate its natural wonders is the purpose of the Yellowstone Association Institute. Through the Institute you can learn about the wonders of the land and its life forms, enjoy a distinctive experience, meet people with similar interests, and learn from top-notch instructors.

The Yellowstone Association Institute operates year-round and features outdoor courses on topics such as wildlife photography, griz-

zly bears, wildflowers, geysers, birds of prey, ecology, art, animal tracks, Native Americans, writing, fly fishing, and Yellowstone history. There are also some courses especially for families and children.

Most courses last from two to five days, and class size is limited to 10-15 students to ensure high-quality instruction. Many courses are offered for graduate and/or undergraduate credit.

The Institute is headquartered at the

old "Buffalo Ranch," where the park's bison recovery project was centered early in the century. Cozy log cabins overlook the beautiful Lamar Valley, a haven for elk, bison, mule deer, bighorn sheep, wolves, and other large mammals.

In this magnificent setting, participants get close to nature and see Yellowstone with the experts. Field work may take place at locations throughout the park. Because much class time will be spent outdoors, students should be pre-

pared for a variety of mountain weather conditions.

The Institute is sponsored by the Yellowstone Association, a non-profit educational organization, so prices are reasonable. To obtain information or a free course catalog, write to Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 or call (307) 344-2294. Complete course information is also available at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).

## Area Museums Enhance Visitor's Experience in the Tri-state Region

Opportunities to better understand the story of Yellowstone National Park and its natural wonders do not stop at the park's boundaries. A number of outstanding museums are located within a few minutes to a few hours driving distance of Yellowstone's five entrances. Exhibits and other programs at these museums expand your opportunities to learn more about the park and surrounding areas.

• **The Buffalo Bill Historical Center**, just 52 miles from the East Entrance at 720 Sheridan Ave. in Cody, WY, features four individual museums and a research library. Phone (307) 587-4771 for more information.

• **The National Museum of Wildlife Art** at 2820 Rungius Road in Jackson, WY, is home to the nation's premier public collection of fine art devoted to wildlife. Phone (307) 733-5771 for more information.

• **The Museum of the Rockies**, at 600 West Kagy Blvd. in Bozeman, MT, is best known for its paleontology, geology, western history, and Native American exhibits. Phone (406) 994-2251 for more information.

• **Museum of the Mountain Man**, 700 East Hennick, Pinedale, WY, features collections related to the Rocky Mountain fur trade era. (307) 367-4101.

• **Wind River Historical Center**, 909 W. Ramshorn, Dubois, WY, features collections related to the Sheepwater Indians and archaeology of Yellowstone's original inhabitants. (307) 455-2284.

• **Western Heritage Center**, 2822 Montana Ave., Billings, MT, with interactive exhibitions interpreting the history of the Yellowstone region. (406) 256-6809.

• **Yellowstone Art Museum**, 401 N. 27th St., Billings, MT, has some of the region's finest historical and contemporary western art. (406) 256-6804.

• **Livingston Depot Center**, 200 W. Park St., Livingston, MT, has

collections related to the railroads, western history, and art. (406) 222-2300.

• **Park County Museum**, 118 West Chinook St., Livingston, MT, has displays of colorful local and Yellowstone history. (406) 222-4184.

• **International Fly Fishing Center**, 215 E. Lewis St., Livingston, MT, features aquariums and the history of fly fishing. (406) 222-9369.

• **The Natural History Exhibit Hall**, 120 E. Park St., Livingston, MT, features a dinosaur exhibits from China.

• **Historic Virginia City and Nevada City, MT** features authentic 1860s buildings, artifacts, train, and theater. (800) 829-2969.

• **Montana Historical Center Museum**, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT, features 11,000 years of Montana history and art. (406) 444-2694.

• **Yellowstone Historic Center**, 121 Madison Ave., West Yellowstone, MT three blocks from the West Entrance, with a future museum planned. Archival research available. (406) 646-7461.

## Concessioner Activities

Contact an activity desk at the local hotels and lodges for a complete listing of activities.

### HORSEBACK RIDES

For a western-flavored Yellowstone experience, saddle up and join a congenial guide for a trail ride from one of our three corrals located at Mammoth Hot Springs (Through 9/19), Roosevelt Lodge (Through 9/12), or Canyon Village (Through 9/11).  
1-hour ride—\$20.00  
2-hour ride—\$32.00

Children must be at least 8 years old and 48 inches tall. Children 8-11 must be accompanied by a person(s) 16 years or older. Weight limit: 250 pounds. Only one rider per horse.

### STAGECOACH RIDES

Through September 12  
Relive the wild-West experience of a stagecoach ride at Roosevelt Lodge. Adult \$6.50; child (2-11) \$5.25

### BRIDGE BAY SCENICRUISER RIDES

Through September 26  
One-hour narrated cruises depart Bridge Bay Marina throughout the day for tours on the northern part of Yellowstone Lake. Enjoy views of the Absaroka Mountains, historic Lake Hotel, and Stevenson Island. A guide on board will provide interpretation for this spectacular area. Adult \$8.75; child (2-11) \$4.75

### BRIDGE BAY GUIDED FISHING TRIPS

Through Sept 12

Experienced guides tailor a trip that suits your interests; departs from Bridge Bay Marina.  
22 ft. Cabin Cruiser (1-6 people) \$52.00/hour  
34 ft. Cabin Cruiser (1-6 people) \$68.00/hour  
Rowboats, outboards, and dock slips are also available to rent at Bridge Bay.

**PICTURE-PERFECT PHOTO SAFARI**  
Through Sept. 30  
Old Faithful Inn—Mon. & Tues.

Lake Hotel—Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Sun.  
Adults \$32.00; Child (12-16) \$17.00

### TOUR OF HISTORIC OLD FAITHFUL INN

Through Oct. 15, daily  
Duration: 45 minutes  
Meet at the fireplace in the Old Faithful Inn Lobby. Tours begin at 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 3:30 PM; no charge.



# Yellowstone's Northern Range

Yellowstone Today



Tom Cawley Photo

One of the regions of the park that you can get to easily year-round is Yellowstone's northern range—the broad sagebrush grassland that borders the Yellowstone and Lamar rivers in the northern quarter of the park. This region sustains one of the largest and most diverse populations of free-roaming large animals seen anywhere on earth. Yellowstone's northern range is often compared to another world-famous wildlife area, Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, in east Africa.

Wildlife viewing has always been popular on the northern range. Herds of elk are usually seen grazing on the hillsides, and small groups of pronghorn and bison can also be seen. Often wolves are spotted on the distant hills. While coyotes are not as numerous as they had been prior to the reintroduction of the wolf, they, too, can be seen on occasion. Grizzly bears are often seen here in the spring and early summer. As the aspen and cottonwood trees turn gold in autumn, elk and bison gradually begin to migrate back from higher-elevation summer haunts to the Northern Range. The high-pitched calls of bugling bull elk echo between the rims of the mountains. By November, large groups of these animals can be seen across the expanse of Blacktail Plateau or in the Lamar Valley.

Photo courtesy of Tom Cawley

## The Northern Range Controversy



From the time the U.S. Army arrived in 1886 until the 1930s, wildlife management in Yellowstone National Park was mainly seen as protecting the grazing animals and other herbivores from poachers, natural predators, and other threats. Wildlife biology was in its infancy, and management practices encouraged the attitude that wildlife was either good or bad. This view led to the elimination of

many predators from most of the western United States, including Yellowstone. In the park, reduction of predators resulted in an increase in ungulate numbers.

Accurate censuses of the elk in the park, especially on the northern range, were not available in the early years. The censuses that had been done are highly questionable as to their accuracy. By the early 1930s, scientists and managers believed that wildlife grazing and drought in the early part of the century had reduced the northern range's carrying capacity and that twice as many elk were on the range in 1932 as in 1914. Consequently, from 1935 until 1968, elk, pronghorn, and bison populations were artificially controlled by shooting or trapping and removal. Many of the animals that were trapped were shipped to various Western states to restore or increase wildlife herds that had been decimated by overharvest and poaching.

By the 1960s, scientists and wildlife managers had learned more about the biology and life history of individual wildlife species. They had also begun to understand that there are complex interconnections among and between living and non-living components in the world around us. The term "ecosystem" was coined, and many definitive studies describing the young science of ecology were conducted. Based on these studies, many scientists involved with Yellowstone believed that the elk and other wildlife using the northern range could be self-regulating. Consequently, when the wildlife reductions were stopped in 1968, a policy of natural regulation was instituted. Along with this new policy, intensive studies of many aspects of the northern range began.

In part, the controversy that has evolved around the northern range is likely due to the personal or scientific background that a person comes from. Many urban dwellers live in intensively managed surroundings (community parks and personal gardens and lawns) and are not used to viewing wild, natural ecosystems. Livestock managers and range scientists tend to view the landscape in terms of maximizing the number of animals a unit of land can sustain. Range science has developed techniques that allow intensive human manipulation of the landscape for

this goal, which is often economically based. Many ecologists and wilderness managers, on the other hand, have come to believe that the ecological carrying capacity of a landscape is quite different from the concept of range or economic carrying capacity. They believe that the only constant in a naturally functioning wilderness ecosystem is variability and change. What may look "bad," in fact, may be normal for a wild landscape.

For example, today, some range scientists and others say that the northern range in Yellowstone is overgrazed. However, many intensive studies of the northern range have revealed no clear evidence of grassland overuse. In fact, ungulate grazing appears to benefit plant production in all but drought years. Ungulate grazing enhances the protein content of grasses, the yearly growth of big sagebrush, and sagebrush seedling establishment. Neither a reduction in root biomass nor an increase in dead bunchgrass clumps has been observed during the studies. Studies on aspen and willows and their relationship to ungulates on the northern range are not so clear-cut, and more research is needed.

It appears that the major factor influencing the size of the northern range elk population is winter severity. Mild winters allow many more elk to survive until spring, but, periodically, severe winters result in significant levels of winter kill for many animals, not just elk. In severe winters, like the winters of 1988–89 or 1996–97, up to 25% of the herd can die. Many scientists believe that the northern Yellowstone elk herd demonstrates the ecological principle of density-dependence: over-winter calf mortality, yearling mortality, and adult bull mortality all increase with higher elk population densities.

Elk are also continuously subjected to predation by other species in the ecosystem, including bears, wolves, coyotes, and mountain lions. The complex interdependence of these relationships results in fluctuations in the elk population. When there are lots of elk, predator numbers increase, which, in part, helps to reduce elk numbers. In the past decade, elk have continued to colonize new winter ranges north of the park as areas have been set aside for this purpose, and summers have been wet (resulting in better plant production) while winters have been (in general) mild. The fires of 1988 also opened many forest canopies, allowing more grasses to grow. All of these factors have increased elk survival.

National Park Service policies not only protect native species but also protect the ecological processes that occur naturally across the landscape. Wherever possible, human intervention is discouraged. It is probable that the controversy will continue. At the request of Congress, in January the National Academy of Sciences began a review of northern issues and research. Their report is expected to be complete by the end of 2000, and the results will be made available to the public.



# Yellowstone Issues

Yellowstone Today

## Exotic Invaders Threaten Yellowstone Fish and Aquatic Ecosystems

In many ways, the 1990s have not been good for Yellowstone's aquatic resources. Repeatedly, scientists and park staff have discovered non-native species that could have long-term and devastating effects on the fisheries and aquatic ecosystems of Yellowstone National Park. Each threat challenges us and rearranges the priorities of park managers.

Yellowstone Lake is considered the core of the remaining undisturbed, natural habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, which today survives in only about 15% of its historic range. Because cutthroat trout live mainly in near-shore waters and spawn in tributary streams of the lake, many species of birds and mammals have come to depend on the cutthroat trout as a food source. Grizzly bears, raccoons, otters, white pelicans, mergansers, herons, gulls, bald eagles, and osprey are just some of the species closely linked to cutthroat trout in this naturally functioning ecosystem.

In 1994, this delicate web of life was threatened when a visitor caught a fish in Yellowstone Lake that was identified as a non-native **lake trout (or Mackinaw)**. Immediate investigation by fisheries biologists led to the frightening conclusion that this was not a lone fish; targeted gill-netting revealed a multi-aged population of lake trout in the lake. It appears that some years ago an unknown person(s) illegally dumped lake trout into Yellowstone Lake.

The lake trout is native to the Great Lakes region and other northern areas of North America. It is a large, predacious fish that lives and spawns in deep water. Consequently, not only will cutthroat trout be eaten by the lake trout, but lake trout will rarely be available as a prey species for the birds and mammals that are dependent on the cutthroat. In all instances where lake trout have been

introduced (legally and illegally) into Western waters, the fish has rapidly multiplied and eventually decimated the native fishery.

The **New Zealand mud snail** (native to New Zealand) was discovered in park waters in 1995. At present, the tiny (< 1/4 inch), black, conical-shaped snail occurs in the Firehole, Gibbon, Madison, and Snake rivers, sometimes in extremely high numbers. The mud snail often forms dense colonies on aquatic vegetation and rocks along streambeds, where it crowds out native aquatic insect communities, which are a primary food source for fish. Strategies for dealing with this invader are being developed.

**Whirling disease** is a parasitic infection of fish caused by a microscopic protozoan that destroys the cartilage of juvenile trout, causing them to swim in a whirling motion (as if chasing their tail) when startled. Seriously infected fish have a reduced ability to feed or escape from predators, and mortality is high. The whirling disease parasite is native to Europe and was first detected in the eastern United States in the 1950s. By the 1980s, whirling disease was found in many areas of the Rocky Mountains, and young rainbow trout and cutthroat trout appear to be particularly vulnerable to the disease. Older fish and other species of trout are less susceptible (or possibly immune) to the disease, but may carry it.

Whirling disease was discovered in the Madison River outside of Yellowstone in 1994 and appears to be the cause of a significant decline in wild rainbow trout there. Annual surveys for the parasite in Yellowstone were negative until late 1998 when several Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout were found to be infected. Investigations have continued throughout 1999 and managers hope to have more information once the data has been analyzed.

## Draft Winter Use Plan and EIS Released for Public Review

Winter in Yellowstone can be a magical experience. Steam and occasional streams of hot water rise from thermal features surrounded by towering banks of snow. Bison meander about, sporting a layer of snow and frost atop their shaggy winter coats. Trumpeter swans float the Madison River as well as between the Upper Falls and the icy expanse of Yellowstone Lake.

An increasing number of visitors venture into the park each winter. People come by car, snowmobile, snow-coach, snowshoes, and skis to experience the winter wonders of the first national park. They often bring with them the equipment and expectations of civilization. This can place people in conflict with nature and, occasionally, one another.

Proposals to help the National Park Service determine appropriate types and levels of future winter use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks were released for public review August 15. They are contained in a Draft Winter Use Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Public opinion obtained from written comments and during open houses was used to define the goal of creating a plan that will offer a range of winter experiences that do not compromise the protection of the parks. Representatives of the three states and five counties adjoining the parks and the U.S. Forest Service worked with park planners to create the seven different winter use alternatives contained in the draft plan.

The draft plan is available for review on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/yell/technical/planning/](http://www.nps.gov/yell/technical/planning/). Printed copies of the 700-page, two-volume draft plan are available for review at park visitor centers and many regional libraries. While copies of the complete document are available upon written request, the Executive Summary is recommended for those not conducting an in-depth scientific analysis of each alternative. Public comment on the draft plan will be accepted by mail, e-mail, or in person during a series of public meetings to be held during the 90-day public comment period, which ends November 15, 1999.

Once the public review period closes, National Park Service planners and managers will review, analyze, and consider the comments provided by the public and by other governmental agencies before a final winter use plan is prepared by September 2000. Once a plan is approved, the National Park Service will begin to formulate and implement winter use changes based on the plan. No major changes in winter use will take place before the winter of 2000-2001 in order to allow adequate notice for park visitors and businesses.

For more information on the planning process, to submit comments on the proposals, or to request a printed copy of the Executive Summary or the complete document, e-mail the park at [yell\\_winter\\_use@nps.gov](mailto:yell_winter_use@nps.gov) or write Clifford Hawkes, National Park Service, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228.

## Lake Trout Netting Helps Native Species

It is unlikely that lake trout can ever be totally eradicated from Yellowstone Lake. While gill-netting operations conducted by park staff have resulted in successfully removing large lake trout (especially at lake trout spawning grounds), small lake trout are found throughout the lake and are quite numerous. Since 1994, biologists have refined and focused their gill-netting operations, catching and destroying more than 9,400 lake trout. Anglers have had a good deal of success catching lake trout that are between 15 and 24 inches long because these fish are found in shallow, near-shore waters early in the year (June and early July).

During the summers of 1996 and 1997, National Park Service biologists located lake trout spawning areas in the West Thumb region of Yellowstone Lake. Fish were radio-tagged and released so that they could be tracked to learn more about where lake trout go in the lake and to locate other spawning areas. These studies are continuing.

Cutthroat trout are not only an integral part of the Yellowstone Lake ecosystem and key to many species' survival, they are also a valuable economic component of the regional economy. (In 1994, the value of the Yellowstone watershed fisheries above the Upper Falls was estimated at \$36 million.) About 80% of a lake trout's diet consists of cutthroat trout. The long-term goal for the lake trout control program is to limit lake trout numbers so that they eat fewer cutthroat trout each year than anglers take home. Continued monitoring of the cutthroat trout population will occur in order to be sure that the lake trout control program is effective in keeping lake trout predation under the angler exploitation rate. It is possible that greater angler restrictions for cutthroat trout will be necessary in the future.



# Nearby Parks and Forests

## Yellowstone Today

To the south of Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park offers spectacular scenery and its own set of campgrounds, exhibits, and other activities. Pick up a copy of the park newspaper, the *Teewinot*, for complete information about services and facilities and a more detailed map. Newspapers are available at Grand Teton visitor centers and entrance stations.

**Campgrounds**—First come, first served; camping fee is \$12 per night. Advanced reservations are not accepted. Campgrounds fill to capacity during July and August. For current status of campgrounds, ask at entrance stations or visitor centers in Grand Teton National Park. Approximate filling times and closing dates are as follows:

<b>Gros Ventre</b> (360 sites)	Evening or may not fill	Through Oct. 15
<b>Jenny Lake</b> (49 sites)	8:00 AM	Through Sept. 20
<b>Signal Mountain</b> (86 sites)	10:00 AM	Through Oct. 4
<b>Colter Bay</b> (350 sites)	12:00 noon	Through Sept. 20
<b>Lizard Creek</b> (60 sites)	2:00 PM	Through Sept. 6

Jenny Lake Campground is open to tents only. Other campgrounds will accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles. All campgrounds have modern comfort stations, but none have utility hookups. The maximum length of stay is 7 days at Jenny Lake and 14 days at all other NPS campgrounds.

**Lodging**—Make your reservations directly, using the following phone numbers:

Jenny Lake Lodge	(307) 733-4647
Colter Bay Cabins	(307) 543-2828
	or (307) 543-2811
Flagg Ranch Village	(307) 543-2861
	or (800) 443-2311
Jackson Lake Lodge	(307) 543-3100
	or (307) 543-2811
Signal Mtn. Lodge	(307) 543-2831
Dorman's Cabins	(307) 733-2522

Lodging can also be found in Jackson and Dubois, Wyoming, and in other areas surrounding Grand Teton.

**Moose Visitor Center**—Open year-round. Daily hours: After Sept. 6, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, audiovisual programs, exhibits, permits, publication sales. Phone: (307) 739-3399. Telecommunications device for the deaf only (TDD): (307) 739-3400.

**Colter Bay Visitor Center**—Daily hours: Sept. 7–Oct. 3, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM. Information, audiovisual programs, permits, and publication sales. Phone: (307) 739-3594. TDD: (307) 739-3544.

**Clinic**—Grand Teton Clinic, located near Jackson Lake Lodge. Call (307) 543-2514 or after hours (307) 733-8002. Emergency: dial 911 or 739-3300.

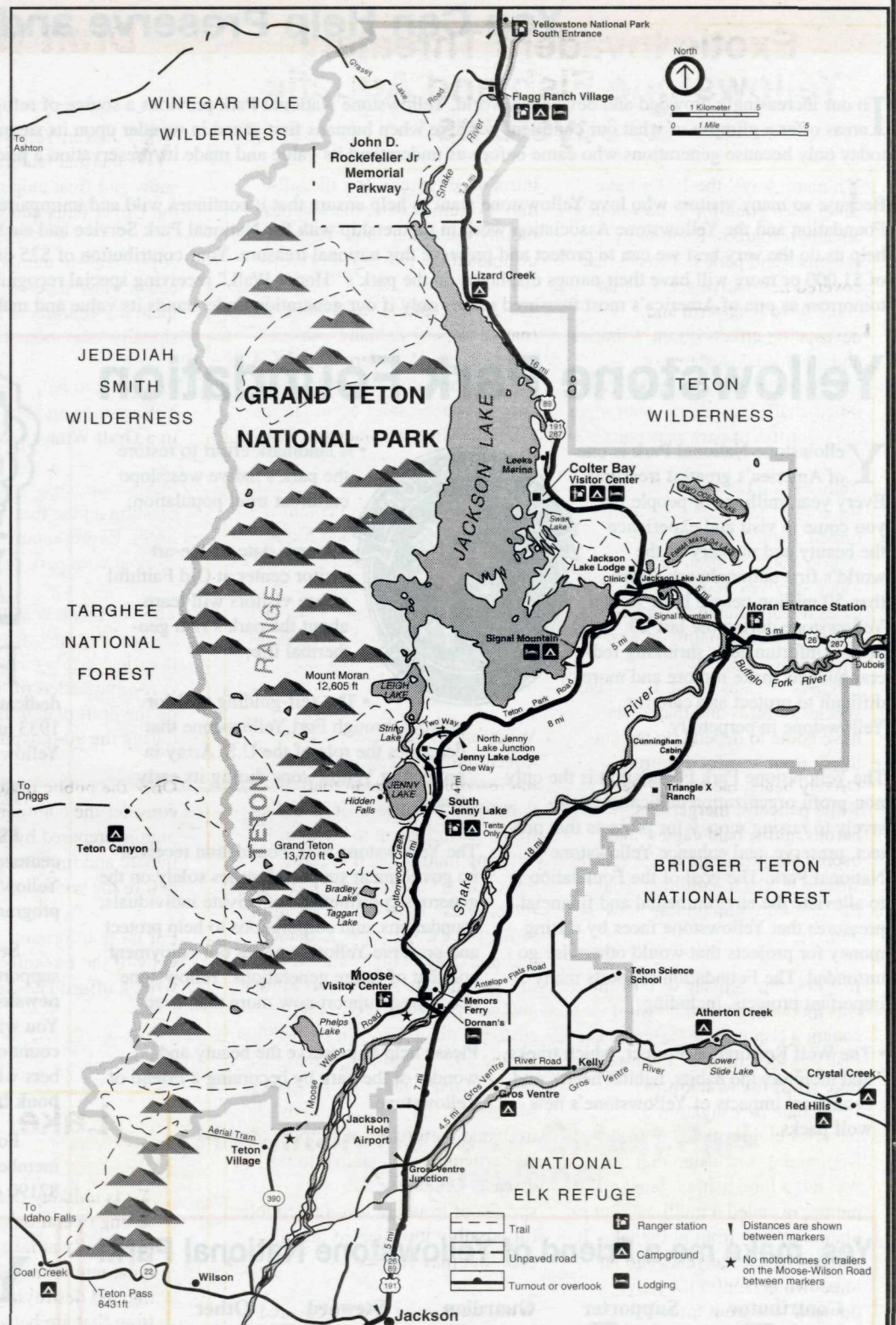
Hiking, sightseeing, boating, floating the scenic Snake River, horseback riding, and fishing are available depending on seasonal conditions. Backcountry camping requires a free permit that can be obtained at the Moose Visitor Center year-round. Boating requires a Grand Teton boating permit, sold at visitor centers. A Wyoming fishing license is required to fish in Grand Teton National Park.

For Grand Teton information call (307) 739-3600.

### Nearby Parks and Forests

For more information on national parks and forests located in the Yellowstone region, please contact:

Grand Teton National Park	(307)739-3600
Glacier National Park	(406)888-7800
Shoshone National Forest	(307)527-6241
Gallatin National Forest	(406)587-6701
Bridger-Teton Natl. Forest	(307)739-5500
Targhee National Forest	(208)624-3151



### Area Chambers of Commerce

Services are available in communities near the park. For information, contact the Chambers of Commerce in:

Montana	Wyoming
Billings	Cody (307)587-2297
Bozeman	Jackson (307)733-3316
Gardiner	Dubois (307)455-2556
Livingston	East Yellowstone/Wapiti Valley (307)587-9595
West Yellowstone	
Lodging only	
Cooke City–Silver Gate	
Red Lodge	
Idaho	
Idaho Falls	(208)523-1010
Eastern Idaho Visitor Info Center	(800)634-3246





# Friends of Yellowstone

Yellowstone Today

## You Can Help Preserve and Protect Yellowstone

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

Because so many visitors who love Yellowstone want to help ensure that it continues wild and unimpaired for our future, two separate organizations have been established. The Yellowstone Park Foundation and the Yellowstone Association work in partnership with the National Park Service and each other to provide a means for visitors to contribute to Yellowstone's preservation. Please help us do the very best we can to protect and preserve this national treasure. Your contribution of \$25 or more to either organization will designate you as a friend of Yellowstone; contributors of \$1,000 or more will have their names displayed on the park's "Honor Wall," receiving special recognition as a steward and benefactor of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone will exist tomorrow as one of America's most treasured places only if our generation understands its value and makes its preservation our priority.

## Yellowstone Park Foundation

Yellowstone National Park is one of America's greatest treasures. Every year, millions of people like you come to visit and experience the beauty and mystery of the world's first national park. More than 50 million people have visited Yellowstone during the last 20 years. Unfortunately, shrinking federal budgets make it more and more difficult to protect and care for Yellowstone in perpetuity.



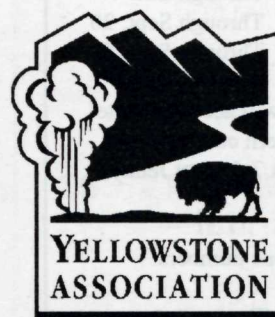
- A landmark effort to restore the park's native westslope cutthroat trout population;
- A new state-of-the-art visitor center at Old Faithful where visitors will learn about the park's rich geothermal life;
- The self-guiding trail for visitors through Fort Yellowstone that describes the role of the U.S. Army in protecting Yellowstone during its early years.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation is the only non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to raising money for projects that protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone National Park. The goal of the Foundation is to alleviate the environmental and financial pressures that Yellowstone faces by raising money for projects that would otherwise go unfunded. The Foundation supports many important projects, including:

- The Wolf Restoration Project, which tracks and monitors the habits, habitat needs, and ecological impacts of Yellowstone's new wolf packs.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation receives no government support. It relies solely on the generous contributions of private individuals, foundations, and corporations to help protect and preserve Yellowstone for our enjoyment and that of future generations. Yellowstone needs your support now more than ever.

Please help to preserve the beauty and wonder of the park by becoming a Friend of Yellowstone.



## Yellowstone Association

Public appreciation and dedication have ensured Yellowstone's protection and preservation for the first 125 years of its history. The non-profit Yellowstone Association has dedicated itself to fostering this critical public support through education since its founding in 1933 and, with the help of visitors like you, has provided funding of more than \$6,000,000 to Yellowstone National Park in support of educational, historical, and scientific projects.

### How can you help?

**First, visit a Yellowstone Association educational bookstore,** located in all park visitor centers. **One hundred percent** of the profit from your purchase is returned directly to Yellowstone to fund critical educational programs, scientific research, park ranger training, and program supplies.

**Second, become a member of the Yellowstone Association** and provide substantial support to Yellowstone while receiving a year's subscription to the Association's informative **newsletter** and to *Yellowstone Today*, the official **park newspaper**, both published quarterly. You will also receive a **15% discount** on purchases in Association park bookstores and a discount on Yellowstone Association Institute **classes**. In appreciation for their contribution, members who join in the park will also receive their choice of a large, beautiful, and reusable fabric **book bag** depicting either a grizzly bear or gray wolf.

For more information on Association membership or activities, ask one of our helpful staff members at any park visitor center or write P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 or call (307) 344-2296. You can also visit our website at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).

### Yes, make me a Friend of Yellowstone National Park!

Contributor \$25 ☐    Supporter \$50 ☐    Guardian \$100 ☐    Steward \$1,000 ☐    Other ☐

Enclosed is a tax-deductible gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ MC ☐ Visa ☐

Make checks payable to The Yellowstone Park Foundation.



### The Yellowstone Park Foundation

37 East Main, Suite 4  
Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 586-6303  
or visit our website @ [www.ypf.org](http://www.ypf.org)

## YES!

I want to help preserve Yellowstone through education.

To receive all the benefits of membership, visit any park visitor center or complete and mail this form with your dues to: The Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues: ☐ Associate.....\$25    ☐ Patron.....\$250  
☐ Contributing .....\$50    ☐ Sponsor .....\$500  
☐ Sustaining .....\$100    ☐ Benefactor.....\$1,000

Make checks payable to The Yellowstone Association.

Charge to: \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ PNP



# Commercial Services

Yellowstone Today

## Comprehensive Medical Care in a Wilderness Setting...

**Lake Clinic, Pharmacy, & Hospital**  
Through–September 15  
Emergency Room: 24-hour service  
Clinic hours: 8:30 AM–8:30 PM, daily  
Phone (307) 242-7241

**Mammoth Clinic**  
Open year-round: Monday–Friday  
8:30 AM–5:00 PM;  
closed 1:00 PM–2:00 PM  
Phone: (307) 344-7965

**Old Faithful Clinic**  
Through–October 17  
Hours: 8:30 AM–5:00 PM  
Phone: (307) 545-7325

- Board Certified physicians
- Prompt personal, family, and emergency medical care
- For emergencies, dial 911



**Yellowstone Park Medical Services**  
A division of West Park Hospital—  
Cody, Wyoming  
We're there when you need us!

## CELLULARONE®

CellularOne of Cody is now serving Yellowstone with cellular service. Share your Yellowstone experience with a friend! For assistance dial \*611 send.

## HAMILTON STORES INC.

EST. 1915

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



Serving the traveling public since 1915, Hamilton Stores, Inc., offers a wide variety of merchandise, including Yellowstone gifts, souvenirs, film and photo supplies, souvenir T-shirts and sweatshirts, fishing and camping equipment, groceries, and food, including hot and cold beverages, beer, and liquor.

You are cordially invited to visit the Yellowstone Nature Shops at Canyon and Mammoth. Both are devoted to representing the many natural facets of Yellowstone National Park. The Canyon shop, in an effort to better serve the Yellowstone traveler, also offers a selection of food and groceries.

We are also happy to invite you to visit our on-line catalogue at:  
<http://www.hamiltonstores.com>

## Yellowstone Park Medical Services

West Park Hospital, Cody, Wyoming, through its Yellowstone Park Medical Services Division, has offered medical care to Yellowstone's visitors, employees, and residents since 1980.

A board-certified family practitioner provides year-round health care to the Yellowstone Park community at the Mammoth Clinic. Experienced registered nurses and office staff complete the team, offering courteous, professional family and emergency medical care.

In the summer, the operation grows to meet the needs of the park's increased number of visitors and the employees who serve them. Outpatient services are provided at Lake Hospital and Old Faithful Clinic as well as at Mammoth Clinic.

Lake Hospital is also an acute-care facility with ten inpatient beds, clinical laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, and 24-hour ambulance and emergency services. The staff is assembled from highly qualified, experienced professionals from across the country.

For information on employment for the 2000 season (both professional and nonprofessional positions are available), send a resume to: Yellowstone Park Medical Services, 707 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414 or call 1 (800) 654-9447, ext. 462.

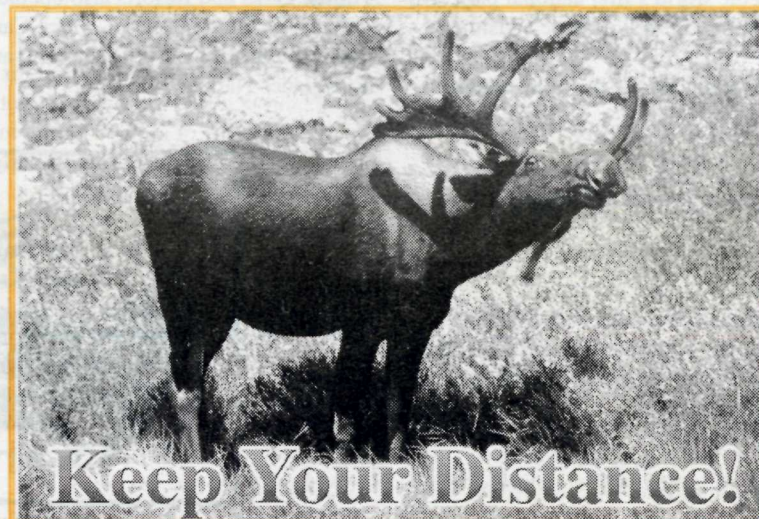


Photo courtesy of Tom Cawley

## Hamilton Stores—Oldest Park Concessioner

The 1872 Act that set the park aside "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and the protection of the natural and scenic treasures therein" also granted leases for the various concessioners who served the public. For the first decade of the park's official existence, no lease to sell general store merchandise was issued. Then, in 1882, Henry E. Klammer applied for and received permits to provide fresh meat to camps and hotels, to pasture and slaughter beef cattle, operate a dairy herd, and to open a general store in the Old Faithful area of the park.

In 1915, a year after the Klammer General Store was purchased by Charles Ashworth Hamilton, horse transportation in Yellowstone reached its zenith. Three thousand "hay-burners" pulled Yellowstone wagons, coaches, surreys, freight wagons, and—grandest of all—double-decker 26-passenger Tallyhos or stagecoaches. However, autos were allowed into the park for the first time that year, and Charles Hamilton quickly spotted the tire

marks in the dirt. In the next five years he acquired store concessions at Lake and Fishing Bridge, and he built filling stations at each location. This was the start of what was to become the oldest, privately owned family concession in the National Park system, serving the traveling public for more than 75 years.

Hamilton Stores invites you to visit its locations during the summer season for a bit of that history—most especially, the original store at Old Faithful (the Lower Basin Store) and the General Store in the Lake area. The upper store at Old Faithful and the Fishing Bridge General Store also convey rustic charm. The newest store, Grant Village General Store, was built and decorated with the craft of many Montana artisans. The general store at Mammoth Hot Springs, open year-round, can also be seen in historic photos from around the turn of the century with horse-drawn stagecoaches and people in period dress in front of the store.



# Commercial Services

Yellowstone Today

## Amfac Parks and Resorts—Committed to Hospitality Excellence

Yellowstone National Park Lodges, operated by Amfac Parks and Resorts, is proud to be a primary concessioner in Yellowstone. We identify our purpose as more than just providing rooms and meals. We are committed to providing a total *Yellowstone Experience*, one that equals the expectations of our valued guests. To this end we are proud to live by our employee-authored *Code of the Best*:

team. Through our attitudes and behavior we will always:

- Provide the best in friendly and efficient guest service.
- Respect the surroundings and preserve them for future generations.
- Demonstrate environmental leadership and encourage environmental awareness in others.
- Support fellow employees and foster a fun working environment.

Yellowstone was established "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

As residents of Yellowstone, we are surrounded by the park's unique environmental, historical, and cultural spirit. For a season or for a lifetime, we are a significant part of the Yellowstone community. Yellowstone National Park Lodges is privileged to have the opportunity to enrich the discovery and understanding of the world's first national park. We graciously welcome Yellowstone's visitors.

We are an integral part of the Yellowstone

We are confident we can deliver a most memorable experience. Thank you for visiting Yellowstone!

If you are interested in becoming part of our Yellowstone team, please call us at (307) 344-JOBS.

Amfac Parks and Resorts also operates concessions in Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Death Valley, Mt. Rushmore, and Everglades National Parks.



This guest walked up to the front desk and said she'd seen the sights. What she hadn't seen was the very reason she'd come all this way in the first place. So we sent her on our Western Cookout. Where the coffee is gritty, but tastes awfully good when it's poured from a steel, blue coffee pot. And the food, well, eating in the wilderness adds quite a bit to its flavor, too. What she brought back from that dinner was something she couldn't show anybody. A picture of Yellowstone that no camera could take. Yellowstone. Don't just see it, experience it.



Let the memories begin.

The best way to see Yellowstone National Park is with us. Our guides and staff are experts in Yellowstone lodging, activities, tours and packages. Call us at 307-344-7311 or visit our website at [www.travelyellowstone.com](http://www.travelyellowstone.com)

Amfac is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service

## Yellowstone Today

is produced by the Division of Interpretation, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, in cooperation with the Yellowstone Association and park concessioners.



The Montana Power Company

Providing electricity to  
Yellowstone National Park since 1959.  
*May your visit to Yellowstone be memorable.*

[www.mtpower.com](http://www.mtpower.com)

**YPSS**  
YELLOWSTONE PARK  
SERVICE STATIONS



Yellowstone Park Service Stations has been serving Yellowstone visitors since 1947. We offer quality petroleum products at seven service stations located throughout Yellowstone. See page 23 for dates of operation for YPSS stations.

Tires - Batteries - Automobile Accessories

LP Gas is available at Fishing Bridge and Grant Village.

Towing and repair service is available at Old Faithful, Grant Village, Fishing Bridge, and Canyon. (Call 307 344-7381—long distance from some park locations—for towing.)

Conoco, Master Card, Visa, Discover, and American Express credit cards are accepted.

## Yellowstone Park Service Stations Open for Autumn Travelers

Each season large mammals are killed by vehicles in Yellowstone. These accidents cause damage to vehicles and personal injury to vehicle occupants. Vehicle speed is the most significant factor influencing the frequency of vehicle/wildlife encounters in the park.

On average, each year 2 antelope, 1 bear, 1 beaver, 1 bighorn sheep, 9 bison, 44 elk, 7 coyotes, 9 moose, 34 mule deer, and 1 wolf are killed by vehicles in Yellowstone.

Please drive defensively in the park, lower your speed, and anticipate animals appearing in the roadway. Hit your brakes, not the bison. Keep your eyes on the road and avoid eradicating an elk. Ease up on the accelerator and extend the days of a mule deer. Yellowstone will benefit; so will you.

Yellowstone Park Service Stations (YPSS) operates the service stations and automotive repair shops in Yellowstone. Elsewhere in this publication—see page 23—you will find a list of services.

As you operate your vehicle in Yellowstone, please be mindful of your safety, the safety of those who share the park byways with you, and also consider your role in the stewardship of the resource in this the "grandest of the nation's parks."

We appreciate your patronage, the sense of shared adventure we both experience—you as you visit and us as we live and work here—and the chance you give us to be of service to you, our guests. May your Yellowstone memory and the love of wilderness abide with you forever.



# Directory of Commercial Services

Yellowstone Today

## Old Faithful

### Lodging

Old Faithful Inn - Rooms: May 1–October 17  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge - Rooms and cabins:  
May 7–October 17  
Old Faithful Lodge - Cabins: May 21–September 19

### Food Services

\* Old Faithful Inn Dining Room: May 1–October 17  
Old Faithful Inn, Pony Express Snack Shop:  
May 1–October 17

Old Faithful Snow Lodge Restaurant: May 7–October 17  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Geyser Grill Fast Food:  
May 7–November 7

Old Faithful Lodge Cafeteria: May 21–September 19  
Old Faithful Lodge Snack Shops: May 21–September 19

### Stores

Old Faithful Inn Gift Shop: May 1–October 17  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge Gift Shop: May 7–October 17  
Old Faithful Lodge Gift Shop: May 21–September 19  
\*\*Old Faithful Photo Shop - (light meals, snacks, fast foods,  
photo shop, gifts, & souvenirs): April 16–October 24  
Old Faithful Basin Lower Store - (general store, light meals,  
snacks, & fast foods): May 1–October 17  
Old Faithful Basin Upper Store - (general store, light meals,  
snacks, & fast foods): May 8–September 26

### Service Stations

\*\*\*Old Faithful, Lower Service Station: April 16–November 7  
Old Faithful, Upper Service Station: May 28–August 22  
Old Faithful Repair Service: May 29–August 22  
Wrecker service will be provided from the Old Faithful  
stations April 16–November 7.

### Other Services

Old Faithful Lodge - Showers: May 21–September 19  
Old Faithful Clinic: May 1–October 17; (307) 545-7325

## Mammoth Hot Springs

### Lodging

Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel - Rooms and cabins:  
May 7–October 11

### Food Services

\* Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Dining Room:  
May 7–October 11

Mammoth Terrace Grill: May 7–October 18

### Stores

Mammoth General Store - (general store, light meals, snacks,  
& fast foods): Open year-round  
Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Gift Shop: May 7–October 11  
Yellowstone Nature Store, Mammoth - (photo shop, gifts,  
souvenirs): May 28–October 4

### Service Stations

\*\*\*Mammoth Hot Springs Service Station: May 7–October 11

### Other Services

Mammoth Hot Springs - Trail rides: May 15–September 19  
**Mammoth Clinic** - Open year-round; five days a week. Daily  
hours: 8:30 AM–5:00 PM, closed 1:00 PM–2:00 PM. (307) 344-  
7965

## Lake Yellowstone

### Lodging

Lake Yellowstone Hotel - Rooms, cabins: May 14–October 3  
Lake Lodge - Cabins: June 10–September 12

### Food Services

\* Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room: May 14–October 3  
Lake Lodge Cafeteria: June 10–September 12  
Lake Yellowstone Hotel Deli: May 14–October 3

\* Dinner reservations required. Inquire at any lodging front  
desk or dining room host stand.

\*\* These locations offer one-hour film processing.

\*\*\*Diesel fuel is available at these stations.

### Stores

Lake General Store - (general store, light meals, snacks, &  
fast foods): May 14–October 4  
Lake Yellowstone Hotel Gift Shop: May 14–October 3  
Lake Lodge Gift Shop: June 10–September 12

### Other Services

Lake Lodge - Laundry: June 10–September 12  
**Lake Hospital, Clinic, and Pharmacy** - May 24–  
September 15; (307) 242-7241

## Grant Village

### Lodging

Grant Village - Rooms: May 28–October 3

### Food Services

\* Grant Village Restaurant: May 28–October 3  
Lake House at Grant: May 28–October 3

### Stores

Grant Village Ministore - (general store, light meals, snacks,  
& fast foods): May 7–September 27  
Grant Village General Store - (general store, light meals,  
snacks, & fast foods): May 22–October 3  
Grant Village Gift Shop: May 28–October 3

### Service Stations

\*\*\*Grant Village Service Station: May 15–October 3  
Grant Village Repair Service - May 28–September 6  
Wrecker service will be provided from the Grant Village sta-  
tion May 21–September 25.  
Grant Village LP Gas Plant - May 22–October 3

### Other Services

Grant Village Campground - Showers and laundry:  
June 21–October 3

## Canyon

### Lodging

Canyon Lodge - Rooms, cabins: June 4–September 12

### Food Services

\*Canyon Lodge Dining Room: June 4–September 12  
Canyon Lodge Cafeteria: June 4–August 30  
Canyon Picnic Shop - (Light Meals, Snacks, & Fast Foods):  
June 4–September 12

### Stores

\*\*Canyon Nature Store - (light meals, snacks, fast foods,  
photo shop, gifts, & souvenirs): April 23–October 24  
Canyon General Store - (light Meals, snacks, & fast foods):  
May 15–September 23

Canyon Lodge Gift Shop: June 4–September 12

### Service Stations

\*\*\*Canyon Village: April 16–November 7  
Canyon Repair Service: May 28–September 6  
Wrecker service will be provided from Canyon station  
April 16–November 7

### Other Services

Canyon Village Campground - Showers and laundry:  
June 4–September 12  
Canyon Lodge - Trail rides: June 19–September 11

## Roosevelt

### Lodging

Roosevelt Lodge - Cabins: June 11–September 13

### Food Services

Roosevelt Lodge Dining Room : June 11–September 13  
Roosevelt Lodge Dinner Cookout: June 12–September 5

### Stores

Roosevelt Store (general store, light meals, snacks, & fast  
foods): June 11–September 13  
Roosevelt Lodge Gift Shop: June 11–September 13

### Other Services

Roosevelt Lodge - Trail rides: June 11–September 11  
Stagecoach Rides: June 11–September 12

## Tower Fall

### Stores

Tower Fall Store - (general store, light meals, snacks, & fast  
foods): May 29–September 29

### Service Stations

Tower Junction Service Station: June 5–September 13

## Fishing Bridge

### Stores

Fishing Bridge RV Park Gift Shop: May 14–September 12  
\*\* Fishing Bridge General Store - (general store, light  
meals, snacks, & fast foods): May 23–September 12

### Service Stations

\*\*\*Fishing Bridge Service Station: May 14–September 12  
Fishing Bridge Repair Service - May 28–September 6  
Wrecker service will be provided from Fishing Bridge  
station May 28–September 6.

Fishing Bridge LP Gas Plant - May 17–September 12

### Other Services

Fishing Bridge RV Park - Showers and laundry:  
May 14–September 12

## Bridge Bay

### Stores

Bridge Bay Marina Store - (general store, light meals,  
snacks, & fast foods): June 4–September 22

### Other Services

Bridge Bay Marina - Dock rental, May 24–September 19;  
Scenicruiser excursions: June 5–September 26;  
Boat rental, guided fishing trips: June 15–September 12

## Automatic Banking

24-hour cash available at the Mammoth Hotel, Old Faithful  
Inn, Old Faithful Snowlodge, Lake Yellowstone Hotel, and  
Canyon Lodge. CIRRUS and PLUS automatic network  
machines will be in service for cash anytime during the  
lodging facilities' seasons.

## Backcountry Tours

June–September; write to Yellowstone National Park, WY  
82190 or call the National Park Service, (307) 344-7381,  
for a list of certified outfitters.

## Medical Services

**Mammoth Clinic** - Open year-round; five days a week;  
Daily hours: 8:30 AM–5:00 PM, closed 1:00 PM–2:00 PM.  
(307) 344-7965.

**Old Faithful Clinic** - May 1–October 17; (307) 545-7325

**Lake Hospital, Clinic, and Pharmacy** - May 24–  
September 15; (307) 242-7241

## Campgrounds

See page 6 for camping information; call for reservations or  
plan to select sites early.

## Motorcoach Tours

**Lower Loop Tour** - Departs from locations along  
the Lower Loop and Bridge Bay Campground.

**Upper Loop Tour** - Departs from Lake Hotel,  
Fishing Bridge RV Park, Bridge Bay Campground, and  
Canyon Lodge.

**Grand Loop Tour** - Departs from Gardiner, MT  
and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

**Reservations are suggested for some dining,  
lodging, and activities; inquire at any lodging  
front desk or activities desk, or call Amfac  
Parks and Resorts at (307) 344-7311 or TDD  
(307) 344-5395.**

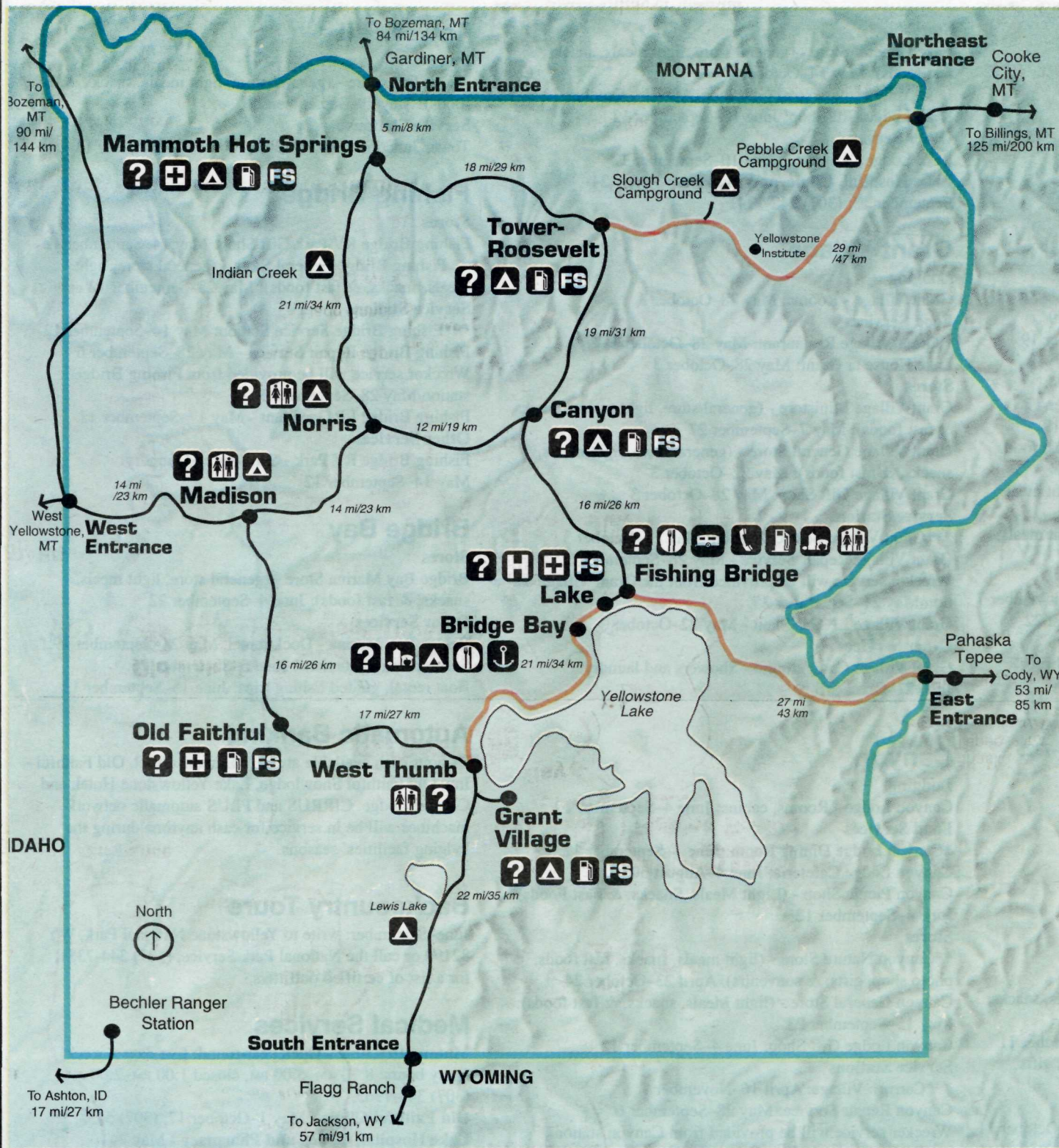


# Yellowstone Roads and Facilities

Park Information (307) 344-7381

TDD: (307) 344-2386

Emergency—dial 911



## Northeast Entrance Road Work

• Sept. 7–Oct. 31: open 5:00 AM–midnight with up to 30 minute delays. Midnight to 5:00 AM moving road closure possible. Ask locally for more information.

• Nov. 1: Open without delays.

## East Entrance Road Work

• Sept. 7–Oct. 3: open 6:00 AM–10:00 AM and 6:00 PM–10:00 PM.

**Weekends:** open 6:00 AM Saturday–10:00 PM Sunday, with up to 30 minute delays possible.

• Oct. 4, 10:00AM: Closed for the season.

## Lake Junction to Bridge Bay Road Work

• Through Oct. 3: open 24 hours with up to 30 minute delays.

• Oct. 4–Nov. 7 : open 6:00 AM–10:00 AM and 6:00 PM–10:00 PM.

**Weekends:** open 6:00 AM Saturday–10:00 PM Sunday.

• During nighttime closures, Bridge Bay Campground will be accessible only from the north (Lake) approach.

## Bridge Bay to West Thumb Road Work

• Sept. 7–Nov. 7: open 6:00 AM–10:00 AM and 6:00 PM–10:00 PM.

**Weekends:** open 6:00 AM Saturday–10:00 PM Sunday.

• During nighttime closures, Bridge Bay Campground will be accessible only from the north (Lake) approach.

This map shows autumn roads/facilities; see page 23 for dates of operation.



Visitor center, ranger station, or information station



General store



Food service



**Full Services** (includes lodging, food service, store, rest rooms, phone)



Gasoline/fuel



Marina



Clinic or hospital



Restrooms



Lodging



Telephones



Campground



Marina



This map is courtesy of Conoco—providing petroleum products since 1917...

All service stations in Yellowstone offer environmentally sensitive fuels, specially formulated by Conoco to reduce hydrocarbon emissions and decrease other pollution-related problems.