

# Yellowstone Visitor Guide 2018



*Are you ready for your Yellowstone adventure?*

## ✓ Place to stay

Hotels and campgrounds fill up quickly, both inside and around the park. Make sure you have secured lodging before you make other plans. If you do not, you may have to **drive several hours away** from the park to the nearest available hotel or campsite.

Reservations.....pg 2

## ✓ Travel time

Plan plenty of time to get to your destination. **Yellowstone is worth pulling over for!** Plan a minimum of 30 minutes to travel in between junctions or visitor service areas on the Grand Loop Road. The speed limit in Yellowstone is 45 mph (73 kph) except where posted slower.

Road map.....pg 20

## ✓ Essentials

### Top 5 sites to see:

1. Old Faithful Geyser
2. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River
3. Yellowstone Lake
4. Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces
5. Hayden or Lamar valleys

Area guides....pgs 14–18

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**Emergency Dial 911**

**Information line 307-344-7381**

**TTY 307-344-2386**

**Park entrance radio 1610 AM**

## **Medical services**

Yellowstone is on 911 emergency service, including ambulances. Medical services are available year round at Mammoth Clinic (307-344-7965), except some holidays. Services are also offered at Lake Clinic (307-242-7241) and at Old Faithful Clinic (307-545-7325) during the summer visitor season.



## **Accessibility**

A printed guide is available at all visitor centers and on the park website. To arrange for an ASL interpreter for NPS ranger-led programs, call 307-344-2251 at least three weeks in advance.

Qualified service animals are welcome throughout the park and in all park facilities. However, they must be leashed and under your control at all times. A permit is required for a service animal to enter the backcountry due to potential wildlife conflict and safety issues.

## **Firearms**

Firearms are allowed in national parks pursuant to state and federal regulations. They are prohibited in facilities where signs are posted, such as visitor centers, government offices, and some concession operations. Discharge of firearms is prohibited. Possession and use of weapons, such as air guns, bows and arrows, spears and slingshots, is also prohibited. Details are available at [www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm)



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

## **Lost and found**

Call 307-344-5387 to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities. In other parts of the park, call 307-344-2109.



# Welcome to Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone is a special place, and very different from your home. Like any grand adventure, your Yellowstone journey will take you to impressive new locations and introduce you to new experiences. There are different risks here than you may have faced before. **You are responsible for your own safety.**

We need your help to preserve the wildlife, natural features, and cultural treasures that bring so many visitors to Yellowstone. **The park rules protect you and also protect the park.** Follow the park rules for a safe and enjoyable visit. Please be a positive part of the Yellowstone experience. More guidance is described inside and online at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/rules.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/rules.htm).

Yellowstone National Park is assisted in fulfilling our mission by our official non-profit partner, Yellowstone Forever. Proceeds from Yellowstone Forever educational bookstores, Institute, and philanthropic efforts support priority park projects and visitor education. Find more information at [Yellowstone.org](http://Yellowstone.org) or call (406) 848-2400.

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

## **Lodging, campground, and tour reservations**

As one of Yellowstone's official concession companies, Yellowstone National Park Lodges offers lodging, camping, dining, and a variety of tours and activities. In summer, visitors can enjoy photo safaris, partial or full-day tours, horseback and stagecoach rides, and boating and fishing adventures. In winter, there are partial or full-day tours by heated snowcoach, skiing, and snowshoe adventures.

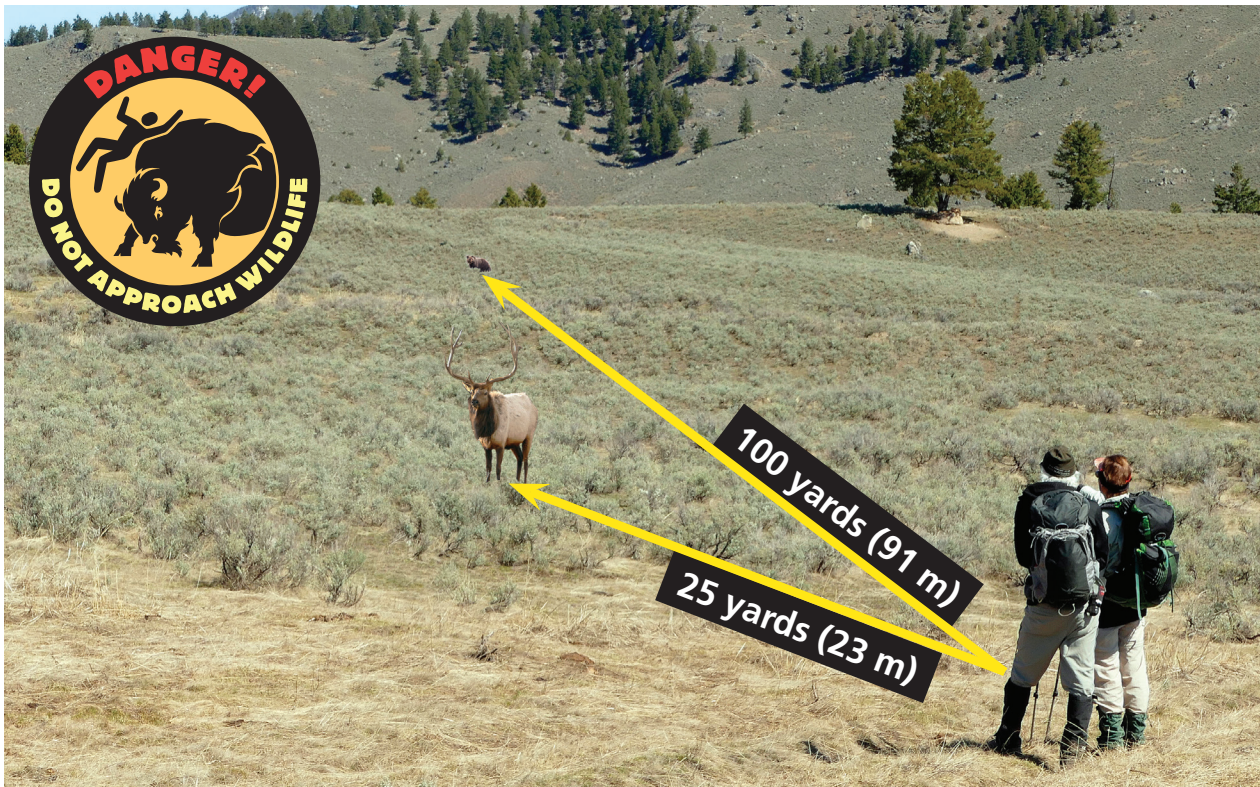
Reservations are available at park hotels and at: 307-344-7311 (TDD: 307-344-5395)

[YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com](http://YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com)  
[Reserve\\_YNP@Xanterra.com](mailto:Reserve_YNP@Xanterra.com)

P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190







## Watching wildlife

Watching wildlife in Yellowstone can be an amazing experience—unparalleled in the lower 48 states. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park are here today: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. You may also see a variety of birds, including bald eagles.

### Looking for wildlife?

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

## Cell phone service

Cell phone service is very limited in the park and surrounding areas. General cell coverage areas are marked on the park map (*back cover*). **Emergency 911 service by cell phone is only available in coverage areas.** During peak hours or seasons of heavy visitation, the cellular network may be slow or completely unavailable. As a courtesy to others, please silence your mobile device while enjoying Yellowstone's natural features.

## Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available to visitors at the Mammoth Hotel restaurant lounge and the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Lake Lodge cafeteria, and the Canyon and Grant lodges for a fee. The Horace M. Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs has free Wi-Fi. Connectivity is very limited and may not be available at all times.

**For your safety, and the safety of the animals please obey park rules:**

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



**Park Tip Line** • To report a crime or criminal activity please call 307-344-2132. Leave as much detail as you can. Remain anonymous, or leave a name and number.



**Smoking is prohibited** in geyser basins, on trails, in buildings, or within 25 feet (7.6 m) of entrances.

**Follow @YellowstoneNPS**



## Store food securely

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



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

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

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



## Pets

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

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



# Make Memories to Last a Lifetime

## Camping

### NPS-operated campgrounds

Campsites are first-come, first-served at **Mammoth, Norris, Indian Creek, Lewis Lake, Pebble Creek, Slough Creek, and Tower Fall**. Arrive early to obtain a site, campgrounds fill quickly.

### Reservable sites

Reserve sites at **Canyon, Bridge Bay, Madison, Grant Village, and Fishing Bridge RV Park** through Yellowstone National Park Lodges at 307-344-7311. Hookups at Fishing Bridge RV Park include water, sewer, and 50 amp electrical service. Only hard-sided camping units are allowed at Fishing Bridge, no tents or trailers. There are no picnic tables or fire grates.

### No overflow camping

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

### Check-in and check-out

Registration desks at reservable campgrounds are open 7 AM to 10 PM during peak season, and 8 AM to 9 PM during early and late season. Check-out time is 11 AM.

### Length of stay

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



**Campfires** are allowed only in designated grills or rings in park campgrounds, some picnic areas, and specific backcountry campsites. Campfires must be extinguished before leaving them unattended.



### Discounts

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

### Quiet hours

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

### Group camping

Group camping (tents only) is available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay for organized groups with a designated leader. Fees range from \$110 to \$335 (plus tax and utilities) per night, depending on group size. Advance reservations are required.

### Food storage boxes

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



### Key to campground features

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

In order of opening	Dates*	Rate	Sites	Elev (ft)	Features	RV sites
Mammoth	All year	\$20	85	6,200	A, F, G	Most are pull-through
Madison △	4/27–10/14	\$25.25 Ω	278	6,800	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Fishing Bridge RV △	5/11–9/5	\$47.75 Ω	346	7,800	F, S/L, 2S, DS, G, ≠	Call for availability and reservations
Norris	5/18–9/24	\$20	112	7,500	A, F, G	2 sites are 50 ft (signed), 5 sites are 30 ft
Bridge Bay △	5/18–9/23	\$25.25 Ω	432	7,800	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Tower Fall	5/25–9/24	\$15	31	6,600	A, V	All sites are 30 ft or less. Has hairpin curve
Canyon △	5/25–9/23	\$30 Ω	273	7,900	A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Grant Village △	6/8–9/16	\$30 Ω	430	7,800	A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Indian Creek	6/8–9/10	\$15	70	7,300	A, V	10 sites are 35 ft, 35 sites are 30 ft
Pebble Creek	6/15–9/24	\$15	27	6,900	A, V	Some long pull-throughs
Slough Creek	6/15–10/9	\$15	16	6,250	A, V	14 sites at 30 ft – walk first to assess sites
Lewis Lake	6/15–11/4	\$15	85	7,800	A, V	All sites are 25 ft or less

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





## Backcountry camping

Overnight backcountry camping is allowed in designated sites and requires a permit. Permits can be obtained up to two days before the start of your trip at any backcountry office. Permits are free prior to Memorial Day. From Memorial Day through September 10, a per-person, per-night fee applies.

- Backpackers and boaters: \$3 per-person per-night (group maximum \$15 per night).
- Groups with stock animals: \$5 per-person per-night.

Detailed information on backcountry permit fees and making advanced reservations is available online at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm)



## Horses, mules, and other stock animals

Traveling in the Yellowstone backcountry with horses, mules, or llamas is an exciting way to see the park. By their very nature, these large animals have the potential to leave great impacts on the land around them. To plan a safe, enjoyable, and low-impact trip, please follow park regulations.

Stock use permission depends on trail conditions. Proof of a negative **Coggins test** is required. Hay is prohibited in the backcountry and weed-free hay restrictions are enforced in other areas. Contact a backcountry office for more detailed information or look online at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/stock-packing-regulations.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/stock-packing-regulations.htm)



## Fishing season

General fishing season opens May 26 and closes November 4, 2018. Some areas remain closed until July 15. Fishing permits are required in Yellowstone, state-issued fishing permits are not valid within the park. Anglers 16 years or older need a permit; younger children can fish for free with a permitted adult.

Fishing regulations in Yellowstone protect the unique values of the park ecosystem and conserve native fish species. Copies of the complete park regulations are available wherever permits are sold, and online at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm)

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

- Arctic grayling
- cutthroat trout
- mountain whitefish

These tackle and gear restrictions apply:

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



## Swimming

**Park waters are swift and cold**

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



## Boating

Watercraft use is limited in Yellowstone. All watercraft (motorized boats, non-motorized boats, and float tubes) must have a **permit** and be **inspected for aquatic invasive species (AIS)** by park staff. Any watercraft suspected of harboring AIS will be subject to a non-chemical decontamination treatment.

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

If you plan to boat in the park, please familiarize yourself with *Yellowstone National Park Boating Regulations*. Copies are available online [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/boating.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/boating.htm) and at backcountry offices.


## Boat permits & AIS inspection locations

### Motorized & non-motorized boat permits & AIS inspections:

South Entrance Backcountry Office, Grant Village Backcountry Office, Bridge Bay Marina Ranger Station

### Float tube only permits & AIS inspections:

Locations above, and also at Mammoth Backcountry Office, Canyon Backcountry Office, Old Faithful Backcountry Office, Northeast Entrance, Bechler Ranger Station

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

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

Transporting water, or any aquatic plants and animals into or between park waters is illegal. If you witness a violation, call **307-344-2132** or contact a ranger.





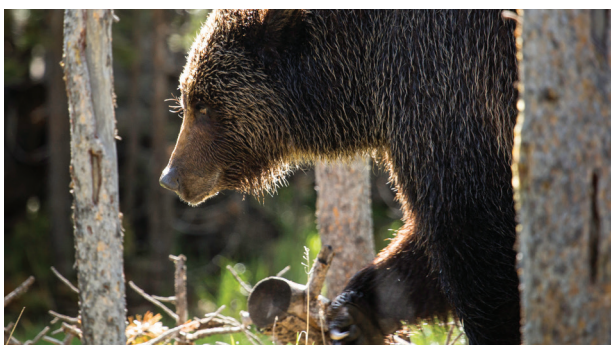
## Day hiking

More than 1,000 miles of hiking trails wind through Yellowstone National Park. Whether you hike for half a mile or more than ten, the backcountry can be an escape from the crowds and a chance to get in touch with the wilderness that Yellowstone preserves.

Ask at any visitor center for brochures describing day hikes throughout the park. Remember to ask about any seasonal closures, trail conditions, or wildlife sightings when you plan your hike. Be prepared for wildlife encounters and carry bear spray on all hikes.

### Top 5 day hikes:

1. Mount Washburn, closed for the season
2. Beaver Ponds, at Mammoth Hot Springs
3. Lone Star Geyser, near Old Faithful
4. Fairy Falls, north of Old Faithful
5. Storm Point, east of Fishing Bridge



## Be prepared for bear encounters

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

Learn more about bears, safe bear viewing, and how to properly use bear spray at **Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone**, a free ranger program presented from Memorial Day to Labor Day at visitor centers throughout the park. See visitor centers for details.

## Hiking in bear country



- **BE ALERT**  
watch for bears, fresh tracks, or scat.
- **MAKE NOISE**  
in areas with limited visibility.
- **CARRY BEAR SPRAY**  
and know how to use it.
- **HIKE IN GROUPS**  
of three or more people.
- **DO NOT RUN,**  
back away slowly.



## Bear spray rentals

Bear Aware LLC rents bear spray from May 26–September 30. The rental kiosk is located at the north end of the Canyon Visitor Education Center parking area.



Rentals include holster and belt, hiking safety information, and instructions on proper use of bear spray. Cost is \$9.25 per day or \$28.00 per week (3–7 days). Prices do not include tax. For more information visit [bearaware.com](http://bearaware.com).

### Rental returns

Return items to the Canyon kiosk, Madison campground, or to gas stations at Mammoth, Tower, Fishing Bridge, Grant, and Old Faithful.

## Bear spray recycling

Bear spray cannot be taken on airplanes or thrown in the trash. However, canisters can be recycled at park hotels, stores, visitor centers, backcountry offices, and ranger stations, as well as area camping stores, and the Bozeman airport.



## Photography

**Have reasonable expectations of your camera.** A cell phone camera will not be able to capture the same resolution and detail as a more advanced camera with large lenses.

**Arm yourself with patience.** To get the best shot, you will spend more time waiting and observing than photographing. Look for patterns in animal behavior that can help you get a great shot. You may have to wait a while—so be ready.

### Stay safe behind and in front of the camera.

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

- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Stay behind fences and guard rails. Never turn your back on wild animals.
- **Keep children close to you at all times.** Never try to pose them with wildlife.
- **Stay out of the road.** Do not stop your vehicle in the road, or stand in the roadway. Do not block any portion of the road with tripods, chairs, or other objects. Do not block the free flow of traffic.



## Bicycling

Bicycling is permitted on paved roads, parking areas, and designated routes. Bicycles are subject to the same traffic rules as automobiles and are prohibited on trails and boardwalks.



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

Road elevations range from 5,300 to 8,860 feet (1,615 to 2,700 m), and services and facilities are far apart. During April, May, and June, high snowbanks may make travel more dangerous.

Find information on the park website or pick up the *Bicycling in Yellowstone* brochure at a visitor center or ranger station.





## Activities for young people

### Junior Ranger Program

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

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

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

### Young Scientist Program

Become a Young Scientist! Buy a self-guiding booklet for \$5 at the Canyon Visitor Education Center (ages 10+) or Old Faithful Visitor Education Center (ages 5+). In the Old Faithful area, check out a Young Scientist Toolkit for the gear you need for your investigation. Once you finish, you will be awarded a Young Scientist patch or key chain.



## Explore park heritage

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



**Removing or possessing** natural or cultural resources (such as wildflowers, antlers, rocks, and arrowheads) is strictly prohibited.

The **Heritage and Research Center** (above) is located just beyond the North Entrance in Gardiner, Montana. This facility is home to Yellowstone's museum collection, archives, research library, archeology lab, and herbarium. Although primarily a research facility, tours provide an inside look at some of the collections. Free tours are available Wednesdays at 2 PM, May 30 through September 5, 2018 (limit 15). For reservations, please call 307-344-2264.

## Let someone else do the driving

### Authorized guides and outfitters

Many authorized guides and outfitters are ready to show you the wonders of Yellowstone, and each has a unique approach. Make sure that your guide, tour company, or other commercial service is fully authorized by the park. Report unauthorized operators to a park ranger, or contact Concessions Management at 307-344-2271.

Authorized providers are listed on the park website at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm)



### Yellowstone Forever Institute

Programs about wildlife, plants, geology, and history are perfect for curious adults and families who want to spend a day or more exploring the park with a knowledgeable guide. To find out more, call 406-848-2400 or visit [Yellowstone.org](http://Yellowstone.org)

### Any commercial activity in the park requires a permit.

- Commercial filming, regardless of equipment, and photography with props or models, require permits. For more information call: 307-344-2722.

## Make the Most of Your Visit

Yellowstone encompasses more than 2.2 million acres, most of it beyond the reach of roads. One could take an entire lifetime to experience the park—and you would still never see it all. Here are some suggestions for making the most of the time you do have.

**Tour early in the day to avoid crowds:** Most people tour the park from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Wildlife are most active at sunrise and sunset; arriving before 8 AM improves your chances of observing animals during their active periods. Park entrance gates are open 24-hours.

**Visit a hidden gem:** Take a day hike, or stroll one of our historic walking tours at Fort Yellowstone or Old Faithful historic districts. You could even explore nearby national park units, national forests, state forests, and state parks. The entire region offers an amazing variety of public lands for recreation and enjoyment.

### Only one day here?



See the most with one-day driving tours:

- Drive to the Old Faithful area and walk around the geyser basin; drive to the Canyon area—stop at several overlooks and walk along the rim.
- Or, visit Old Faithful and one other hydrothermal area, such as Norris, West Thumb, Fountain Paint Pots, or Mammoth.
- Begin in Hayden or Lamar valleys to look for some of the park's large animals. For a break from the road, consider one or two moderate day hikes.
- Explore one area of the park in depth—attend a ranger talk. From 15-minute presentations to 2-hour tours, programs are available throughout the park.
- **Make plans to visit again soon!**

### Two or more days?

- Explore one theme, such as geology, in depth. For example, visit Mammoth Hot Springs to see travertine formations and view the sedimentary layers of Mount Everts, drive through glaciated terrain to Tower Fall or the Lamar Valley, then climb Mount Washburn to view the Yellowstone Caldera and evidence of glaciers.
- Plan an overnight trip into Yellowstone's backcountry. Rangers at park backcountry offices can help you find a site, get a permit, share information about trail conditions, and help make sure that you are equipped and informed for a safer experience.
- Slow down and try your hand at capturing the beauty of Yellowstone through journaling, painting, or simply observing.



# Famously Hot Features

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



The bubbling mudpots of Fountain Paint Pots may be thicker or more active as local precipitation changes.

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

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

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

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

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



The trail to Lone Star Geyser begins about 3.5 miles southeast of Old Faithful.

## How do geysers work?

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

The surrounding pressure also increases with depth, similar to the ocean. Increased pressure exerted by the enormous weight of the overlying rock and water prevents the water from boiling as it heats up.

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



**Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. Do not touch any thermal features and keep foreign objects out of springs.**

## Where geology and biology thrive

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

Nourished by energy and chemical building blocks available in the hot springs, the microbes build vividly colored communities that vary depending on the types of microbes, the pH (acidity or alkalinity), temperature of the feature, and exposure to sunlight.

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

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

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



Microorganisms thrive in hot springs, and other hydrothermal features.



# Fall Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Canyon Village

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 29) Whether hiking, camping, or just enjoying the park’s amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family! Park rangers will help you learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet in front of the Canyon Visitor Education Center. Accessible. <b>20 minutes.</b>	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/9–9/23	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/10–9/24	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/4–9/25	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/5–9/26	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/6–9/27	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/7–9/28	10 AM 3:30 PM  9/8–9/29
<b>Canyon Talks at Artist Point</b> (September 4 to September 29) From a classic viewpoint enjoy Lower Falls, the Yellowstone River, and the spectacular colors of the canyon while learning about the area’s history. Discover why artists and photographers continue to be drawn to this special place. Join a ranger on the lower platform at Artist Point on the South Rim Drive for this short talk.  Accessible. <b>20 minutes.</b>	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/9–9/23	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/10–9/24	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/4–9/25	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/5–9/26	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/6–9/27	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/7–9/28	2 PM 2:30 PM  9/8–9/29
<b>Walking the Edge</b> (September 4 to September 29) Explore the ecology, geology, and history of the canyon while walking with a ranger along the rim of Yellowstone’s Grand Canyon. Enjoy stunning views of the Yellowstone River, the subalpine forest, and the gorgeous colors of the canyon walls. Meet at entrance to Artist Point (east end of parking lot) for this moderately difficult walk of less than one mile. <b>1½ hours.</b>	3 PM  9/9–9/23	3 PM  9/10–9/24	3 PM  9/4–9/25	3 PM  9/5–9/26	3 PM  9/6–9/27	3 PM  9/7–9/28	3 PM  9/8–9/29



# Bridge Bay

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Lake SceniCruise</b> (September 3 to September 9) Join a park ranger on a narrated boat tour on the ethereal water of Yellowstone Lake, with views of the wondrous Absaroka Mountains, historic Lake Hotel & Village, and surrounding lodgepole pine forest. <i>Reservations required in advance through Xanterra Parks and Resorts.</i> Call 307-344-7311 or stop by the Bridge Bay Marina. <i>(Other tours available throughout the day.)</i> (\$18 plus tax for adults, \$10.50 plus tax for kids ages 3–11, free for kids under 3.)  Accessible. <b>1 hour.</b>	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/9	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/3	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/4	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/5	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/6	9 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/7	99 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM  9/8
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 22) Whether hiking, camping, or just enjoying the park’s amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family! In this interactive demonstration, park rangers will help you learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet at the <b>Bridge Bay Campground Amphitheater.</b> Accessible. <b>20 minutes.</b>	5 PM  9/9–9/16	5 PM  9/10–9/17	5 PM  9/4–9/18	5 PM  9/5–9/19	5 PM  9/6–9/20	5 PM  9/7–9/21	5 PM  9/8–9/22
<b>Bridge Bay Evening Program</b> (September 4 to September 22) Each night a park ranger will present an illustrated program highlighting a different aspect of Yellowstone’s wonders. Inquire at Fishing Bridge for program descriptions. Meet at the <b>Bridge Bay Campground Amphitheater.</b> <i>Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.</i> Accessible. <b>45 minutes.</b>	8 PM  9/9–9/16	8 PM  9/10–9/17	8 PM  9/4–9/18	8 PM  9/5–9/19	8 PM  9/6–9/20	8 PM  9/7–9/21	8 PM  9/8–9/22

# Fishing Bridge and Lake Village

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Mud Volcano Ramble</b> (September 4 to September 30) “The greatest marvel we have yet met with,” declared early explorers. View colorful, vociferous, and intriguing mudpots and hot springs, and find out what they reveal about Yellowstone’s explosive past and future. Moderately strenuous. Meet at the <b>Mud Volcano parking area.</b> <b>1½ hours.</b>	10 AM  9/9–9/30	10 AM  9/10–9/24	10 AM  9/4–9/25	10 AM  9/5–9/26	10 AM  9/6–9/27	10 AM  9/7–9/28	10 AM  9/8–9/29
<b>Storm Point Saunter</b> (September 4 to September 30) Wander along the ever-changing lakeshore and through a diversity of landscapes including a lush meadow dotted with wildflowers and an ancient forest of spruce, pine, and fir. Experience Yellowstone in its true splendor. Meet at <b>Indian Pond at the Storm Point trailhead</b> , 3 miles east of Fishing Bridge. Easy 2.3-mile hike. Bring water, raingear, and good hiking shoes. <b>2½ hours.</b>	4 PM  9/9–9/30	4 PM  9/10–9/24	4 PM  9/4–9/25	4 PM  9/5–9/26	4 PM  9/6–9/27	4 PM  9/7–9/28	4 PM  9/8–9/29

# Grant Village & West Thumb

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 15) Whether you’re hiking a backcountry trail, camping, or just enjoying the park’s amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family! In this interactive demonstration, park rangers will help you learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet <b>on the back porch of the Grant Village Visitor Center.</b> Accessible. <b>20 minutes.</b>	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/9	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/10	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/4–9/11	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/5–9/12	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/6–9/13	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/7–9/14	10:30 AM 4:30 PM  9/8–9/15
<b>West Thumb Geyser Basin Walk</b> (September 4 to September 15) Take a guided walk along the beautiful shores of Yellowstone Lake while exploring the origins of glittering geysers, belching mud pots, and emerald hot springs in West Thumb’s dynamic geyser basin. Meet <b>at the West Thumb Visitor Information Station.</b> Roundtrip distance is ½-mile. Easy. <i>Accessible with assistance.</i> <b>1 hour.</b>	11 AM  9/9	11 AM  9/10	11 AM  9/4–9/11	11 AM  9/5–9/12	11 AM  9/6–9/13	11 AM  9/7–9/14	11 AM  9/8–9/15
<b>Gazing into the Abyss</b> (September 4 to September 15) With a park ranger, look deep into beautiful Abyss Hot Spring and discover the secrets it holds. Meet <b>at Abyss Hot Spring located in the West Thumb Geyser Basin</b> , ¼-mile from the start of the boardwalk. Easy. <i>Accessible with assistance.</i> <b>10 minutes.</b>	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/9	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/10	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/4–9/11	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/5–9/12	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/6–9/13	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/7–9/14	1 PM 1:30 PM 2 PM 2:30 PM  9/8–9/15



# Madison

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 30) Whether you’re hiking a backcountry trail, camping, or just enjoying the park’s amazing wildlife from the road, this talk is for you and your family! In this interactive demonstration, park rangers will help you learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet at the <b>Madison Information Station</b> .  Accessible. <b>20 minutes</b> .	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
	9/9–9/30	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29
<b>Madison Evening Program</b> (September 4 to September 30) Learn more about Yellowstone’s natural and cultural history in this presentation highlighting one of Yellowstone’s wonders. Inquire locally for program descriptions. Meet <b>at the Madison Amphitheater</b> .  Accessible. <b>45 minutes</b> .	8 PM	8 PM	8 PM	8 PM	8 PM	8 PM	8 PM
	9/9–9/30	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29

# Mammoth

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Hot Springs Terraces Walk</b> (September 4 to September 29) Explore Yellowstone’s powerful geologic past and present on the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces. Learn how these dynamic travertine formations are unique among the park’s thermal features. Meet at the <b>entrance of the Upper Terrace Drive</b> , two miles south of Mammoth village. <b>1½ hours</b> .	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM
	9/9–9/23	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 29) Whether you plan to hike, camp, or just enjoy amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family. Learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet <b>in front of Albright Visitor Center</b> .  Accessible. <b>20 minutes</b> .	10 AM	10 AM	10 AM	10 AM	10 AM	10 AM	10 AM
	9/9–9/23	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29
<b>Stars Above Yellowstone</b> (September 2 & 9) Explore Yellowstone’s pristine night sky. <b>Meet at Forces of the Northern Range trailhead</b> . Look for “Self-Guiding Trail” sign on Mammoth–Tower Road ~ 8.3 miles east of Mammoth Hot Springs and ~ 9.9 miles west of Tower Junction.  Accessible. <b>2 hours</b> .	9 PM						
	9/2 & 9/9	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

# Old Faithful

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Geyser Hill Walk</b> (September 4 to September 30) Geyser Hill is at the heart of the world’s greatest concentration of geysers. Explore this special corner of the park and learn about the relationship between Yellowstone’s volcanic history and hydrothermal features on this 1¼ mile walk. Meet <b>outside on the geyser side of the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center</b> . <b>1½ hours</b> .	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM	9 AM
	9/9–9/30	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 30) Whether you plan to hike, camp, or just enjoy amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family. Learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet <b>outside on the geyser side of the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center</b> .  Accessible. <b>20 minutes</b> .	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM	11 AM 4 PM
	9/9–9/30	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29
<b>Geysers Galore</b> (September 4 to September 30) Take a quick peek at Yellowstone’s fascinating geysers and visible geologic story. Meet <b>on the boardwalk in front of Old Faithful Geyser</b> near the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center.  Accessible. <b>10 minutes</b> .	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/9–9/30	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/10–9/24	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/4–9/25	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/5–9/26	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/6–9/27	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/7–9/28	12:15 PM 12:45 PM 1:15 PM 1:45 PM 2:15 PM 2:45 PM 3:15 PM 3:45 PM 9/8–9/29
	7 PM	7 PM	7 PM	7 PM	7 PM	7 PM	7 PM
<b>Old Faithful Evening Program</b> (September 4 to September 30) Each evening a different aspect of Yellowstone’s wonders will be featured during this 45-minute illustrated program in <b>the theater of the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center</b> . Check at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center for program titles and descriptions.  Accessible. <b>45 minutes</b> .	9/9–9/30	9/10–9/24	9/4–9/25	9/5–9/26	9/6–9/27	9/7–9/28	9/8–9/29



# West Yellowstone

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 30) Whether you're hiking, camping, or enjoying amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family! Learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet at the <b>West Yellowstone Visitor Info Center</b> in West Yellowstone ( <i>corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street</i> ).  Accessible. <b>20 minutes</b> .	9:30 AM 9/9–9/30	9:30 AM 9/10–9/24	9:30 AM 9/4–9/25	9:30 AM 9/5–9/26	9:30 AM 9/6–9/27	9:30 AM 9/7–9/28	9:30 AM 9/8–9/29
<b>Afternoon Talk in West</b> (September 4 to September 30) Each afternoon, a ranger will present a talk on a captivating aspect of Yellowstone's natural or cultural history in West Yellowstone, Montana. The <b>Yellowstone Historic Center Museum</b> is at the corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street. The <b>Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center</b> is located at 201 South Canyon Street. Talks are free and open to the public. <i>There is a fee if you choose to visit the rest of the Yellowstone Historic Center or the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center.</i> Accessible. <b>30 minutes</b> .	Yellow-stone Historic Center Museum 2 PM 9/9–9/30	Yellow-stone Historic Center Museum 2 PM 9/10–9/24	Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center 2 PM 9/4–9/25	Yellow-stone Historic Center Museum 2 PM 9/5–9/26	Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center 2 PM 9/6–9/27	Yellow-stone Historic Center Museum 2 PM 9/7–9/28	Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center 2 PM 9/8–9/29
<b>West Evening Program</b> (September 4 to September 27) Learn more about Yellowstone's natural and cultural history in this presentation highlighting one of Yellowstone's wonders. Inquire locally for program descriptions. Meet at the <b>West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center</b> in West Yellowstone ( <i>Corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street</i> ).  Accessible. <b>45 minutes</b> .	-----	-----	7 PM 9/4–9/25	-----	7 PM 9/6–9/27	-----	-----

# Norris

Ranger-Led Program Description	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Windows Into Yellowstone Walk</b> (September 4 to September 29) Experience the muddy caldrons, acid geysers, and clear pools of Norris Geyser Basin. Walk through this magical land and learn about the park's geologic past, present, and future. Meet at <b>Norris Geyser Basin Museum</b> . <b>1½ hours</b> .	9:30 AM 9/9–9/23	9:30 AM 9/10–9/24	9:30 AM 9/4–9/25	9:30 AM 9/5–9/26	9:30 AM 9/6–9/27	9:30 AM 9/7–9/28	9:30 AM 9/8–9/29
<b>World's Tallest</b> (September 4 to September 29) Explore the rare and fascinating world of geysers at the tallest active geyser on earth! Meet at <b>Steamboat Geyser</b> , a 10-minute walk from the Norris Geyser Basin parking lot. <i>In rainy weather, the talk will be held at Norris Geyser Basin Museum. Check with the ranger at the information desk.</i> <b>20 minutes</b> .	2 PM 9/9–9/23	2 PM 9/10–9/24	2 PM 9/4–9/25	2 PM 9/5–9/26	2 PM 9/6–9/27	2 PM 9/7–9/28	2 PM 9/8–9/29
<b>Experiencing Wildlife in Yellowstone</b> (September 4 to September 29) Whether you plan to hike, camp, or just enjoy amazing wildlife from the road, this workshop is for you and your family. Learn where to look for animals and how to safely enjoy your wildlife watching experience. Meet at <b>Norris Geyser Basin Museum</b> . <b>20 minutes</b> .	4 PM 9/9–9/23	4 PM 9/10–9/24	4 PM 9/4–9/25	4 PM 9/5–9/26	4 PM 9/6–9/27	4 PM 9/7–9/28	4 PM 9/8–9/29



Ranger Program at Old Faithful.



# Wild Lands and Wildlife



## Within the herd

Yellowstone is the only place in the United States where bison have lived continuously since prehistoric times. Yellowstone bison are special because they are America’s largest bison population on public land and have not been hybridized through interbreeding with cattle.

Bison eat primarily grasses and sedges and are well-suited to both prairies and forests. With adult males weighing up to 2,000 pounds (907 kg), the bison is the largest land mammal in North America. This iconic ungulate is the National Mammal of the United States.

Yellowstone bison herds exhibit wild behavior, like their ancient ancestors. The herd is comprised of cows, calves, and some younger bulls. Mature bulls spend most of the year alone or with other bulls—except during the rut, or mating season. During the rut in July and August, mature males display their dominance by bellowing, wallowing, and fighting

with other bulls. The winners earn the right to mate with receptive females.

After a gestation period of 9 to 9 1/2 months, calves are born in late April and May. Their orange fur makes them easy to see, even from a distance, and has earned them the nickname “red dogs.” Look for bison in open country along the Lamar, Yellowstone, Firehole, and Madison rivers.

### What is the difference between bison and buffalo?

In North America, both “bison” and “buffalo” refer to the American bison (*Bison bison*). Generally, “buffalo” is used informally; “bison” is preferred for formal or scientific purposes. Early European explorers called this animal by many names. Historians believe that the term “buffalo” grew from the French word for beef, *boeuf*.



## Bringing up bear cubs

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

Look for black bears along the edges of wooded areas in the Lamar and Hayden valleys, or among the trees near Mammoth and Tower. Grizzly bears are usually seen in open areas. (See page 6 for information about safely recreating in bear country.)



## Signs of spring renewal

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

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

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



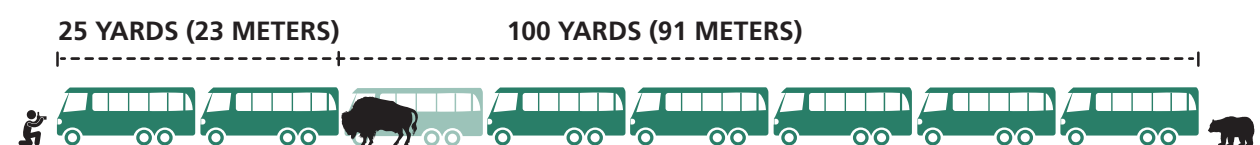
Members of the Lamar Valley pack in 2012.

## Pack mentality

Yellowstone National Park is the site of one of the most ambitious and controversial wildlife restoration projects in the world. The Yellowstone Wolf Project has yielded more than two decades of discoveries on wolf behavior, predator–prey relationships, wildlife disease management, and ecological complexity.

The stark white backdrop of snow and the general absence of leaf cover make winter an ideal time for visitors and researchers alike to observe wildlife. From the popular overlooks of Lamar Valley, it is possible to get a glimpse of wolf society. You may even witness the dangerous dance of predators and prey as each struggles to survive.

## Keep your distance



Stay at least **100 yards (91m)** away from bears and wolves, and at least **25 yards (23 m)** away from all other wild animals.



# Old Faithful Village and Upper Geyser Basin



A raven's perspective on Old Faithful.

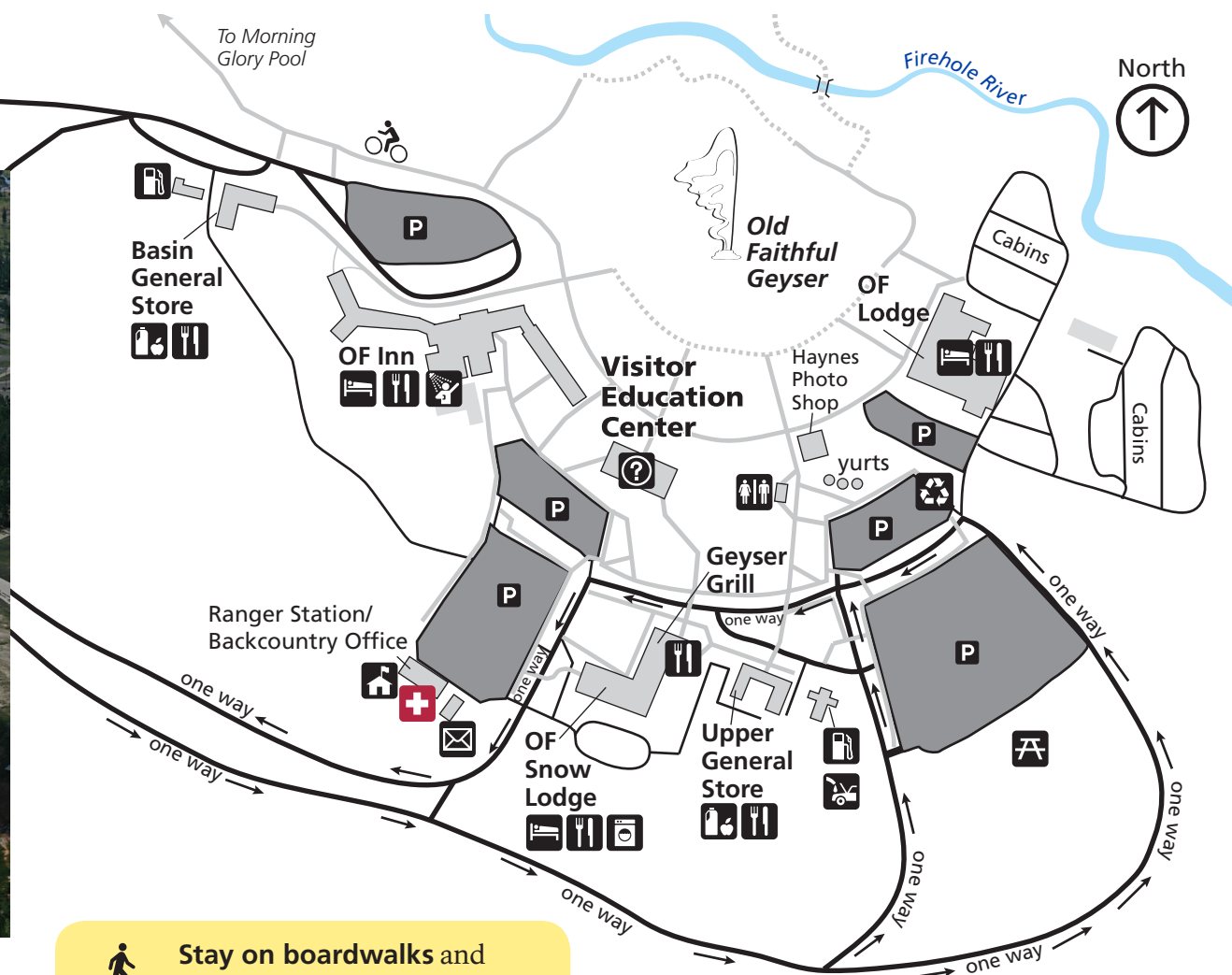
The Upper Geyser Basin, home of Old Faithful, hosts the majority of the world's active geysers. The concentration of hydrothermal features here provides ample evidence of Yellowstone's active volcano.

Partially molten rock, or magma, from this volcano may be as close as 3–8 miles (5–13 km) below your feet. Magma provides the first key ingredient for creating thermal features: heat. Rain and snow eventually supply the second ingredient: water. The water seeps down several thousand feet (more than a kilometer) below the surface where it is heated. Underground cracks and earthquake faults form the third ingredient: a natural "plumbing" system. Super-heated water rises through the plumbing to produce hot springs and geysers.

Old Faithful erupts more frequently than any of the other big geysers, although it is not the largest or most regular geyser in the park. During summer, rangers forecast eruption times for six major geysers. (Five are here; the sixth—Great Fountain—is in the Lower Geyser Basin north of Old Faithful.) However, a geyser's pattern of eruptions may change at any time.



Forecasted eruption times are posted in the Visitor Education Center and in many of the area facilities. You can also call **307-344-2751** (option 2), access predictions on the **Yellowstone Geysers app**, or check the **@GeysersNPS** Twitter feed



**Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. Do not touch any thermal features and keep foreign objects out of springs.**

## Local Services

### Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

Dynamic exhibits about the world's most active hydrothermal area. For our younger visitors, special Junior Ranger programs are available 6/3–9/4. Phone: 307-344-2751.

4/20–6/1	9 AM–6 PM
6/2–9/30	8 AM–8 PM
10/1–11/4	9 AM–5 PM

Yellowstone Forever Bookstore inside.

### Lodging

Old Faithful Lodge and cabins 5/11–9/30  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge 4/27–10/21   
Old Faithful Inn 5/4–10/7

### Food

Old Faithful Lodge and cabins 5/11–9/30  
Cafeteria  
Bake shop  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge 4/27–10/21  
Obsidian dining room  
Geyser grill 4/20–11/4

Old Faithful Inn 5/4–10/7  
Dining Room  
Bear Paw Deli

OF Basin (lower) Store Soda Fountain 5/4–9/23

### Fuel

Lower station: 5/25–10/7  
Upper station: 5/4–9/9

Credit card fueling available 24 hours.

Repairs: 5/25–9/3  
 Wrecker 406-848-7548 on duty 5/4–10/7  
Liquid propane gas bottle exchange available.

### Shopping

Old Faithful General Store (upper) 4/27–10/28  
Sells groceries, souvenirs, take-away foods, and apparel.

OF Basin (lower) Store 5/4–9/23  
Old Faithful Lodge gift shop 5/11–9/30  
Old Faithful Snow Lodge gift store 4/20–11/4  
Old Faithful Inn gift store 5/4–10/7

### Other

Medical Clinic 5/18–9/14, 7 AM–7 PM.;  
9/15–10/2 8:30 AM–5 PM.  
Phone: 307-545-7325 **Emergency dial 911**

U.S. Post Office

Backcountry Office in ranger station.

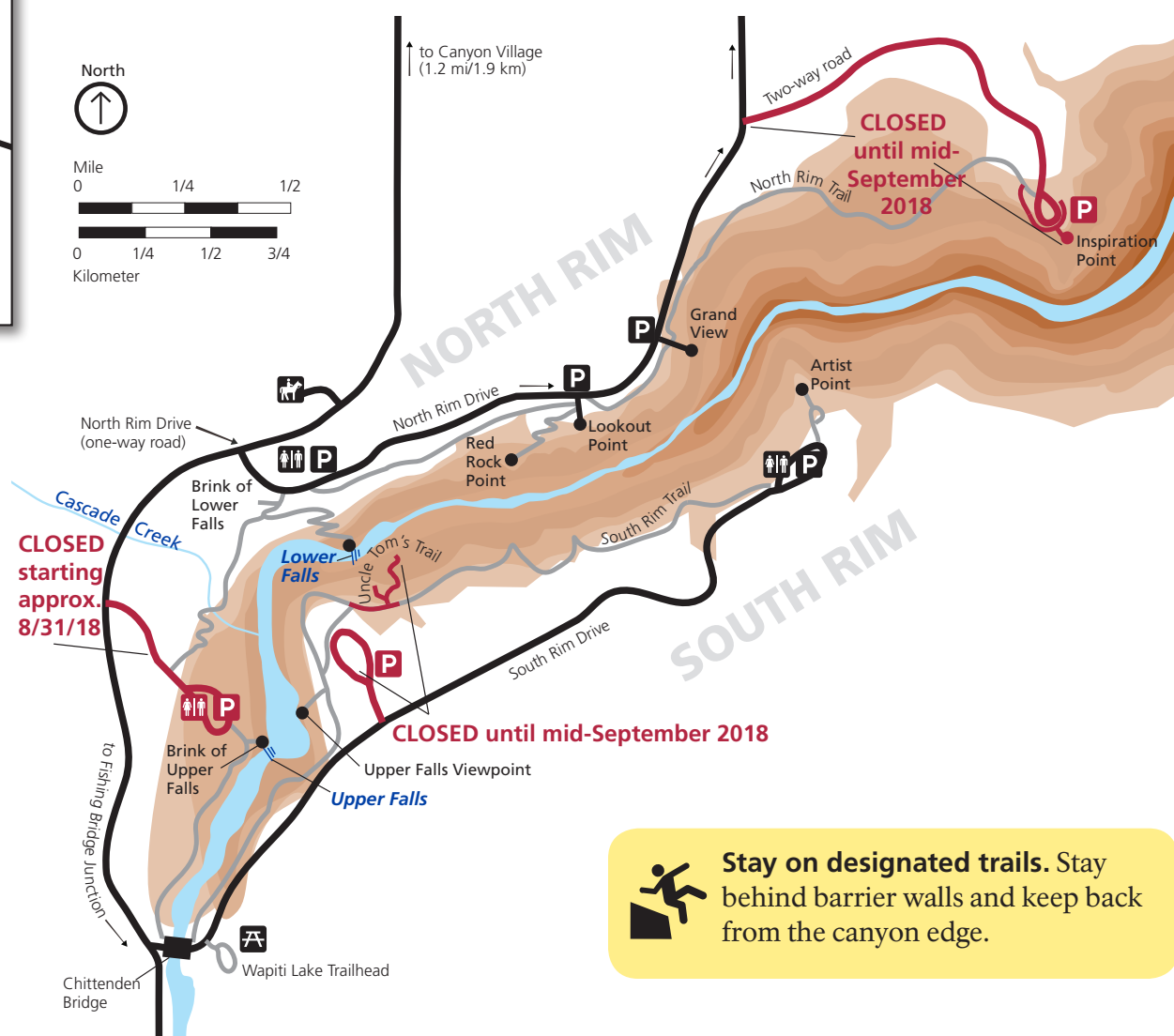
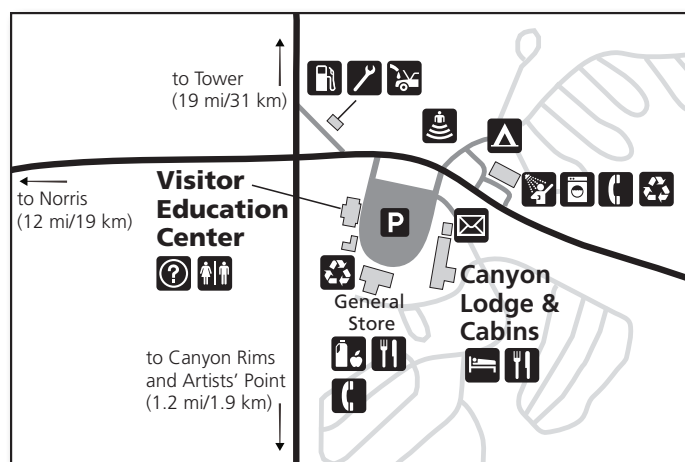
Self-guiding trail booklets are available for the Upper Geyser Basin and the Historic District.

**Public restrooms** located in all visitor centers, stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

**Recycling** bins are located in the parking lot near the yurts, near trash bins at the General Stores, and in the parking lot near the Visitor Education Center.



# Canyon Village and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River



**Stay on designated trails.** Stay behind barrier walls and keep back from the canyon edge.



The Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River.

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

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

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

## Local Services

### Canyon Visitor Education Center

Learn about the Yellowstone supervolcano and the forces that drive regional geology.  
Phone: 307-344-2550

4/20–6/19*	9 AM–5 PM
6/20–9/3	8 AM–6 PM
9/4–10/8	9 AM–5 PM
10/9–11/4*	9 AM–5 PM

(\*Limited services 4/20–4/30 and 10/9–11/4)

- Backcountry Office inside.
- Yellowstone Forever Bookstore inside.

### Lodging

Canyon Lodge and cabins 5/18–10/14

### Campground

Canyon Campground 5/25–9/23

### Food

Canyon Lodge

- Eatery 5/18–10/14
- Falls Cafe 5/25–9/3
- M66 Grill 5/18–10/13
- Ice Creamery 5/25–9/19

General Store Soda Fountain 4/20–11/4

### Fuel

Open 4/27–10/21, credit card fueling 24-hours.  
 Repairs 5/25–9/3  
 Wrecker (406) 848-7548 on duty 4/27–10/14  
Liquid propane gas bottle exchange available.

### Shopping

Canyon General Store 4/20–11/4.  
Sells groceries, ice cream, souvenirs, apparel.  
Has a public water bottle filling station.

Yellowstone Adventures Store 6/8–9/23  
Sells camping and outdoor gear, footwear, fishing supplies.

Canyon Lodge Gift Store 5/18–10/14

### Other

- U.S. Post Office
- Trail rides are offered daily 6/20–9/2.
- A self-guiding trail booklet is available for this area.
- Public restrooms** are located at all visitor centers, stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.
- Recycling** bins are located in the campground and near trash bins at the General Store.



# Lake Village, Fishing Bridge, and Bridge Bay



Yellowstone Lake is the largest high-elevation lake (above 7,000 ft) in North America, covering 286 square miles, with an average depth of 138 feet. The only outlet of the lake is at Fishing Bridge, where the Yellowstone River flows north. The lake is covered by ice from mid-December to May or June.

Powerful geologic processes shaped the shoreline of Yellowstone Lake, which overlies the edge of the Yellowstone caldera. Glacial activity and volcanic events carved the central basin and ragged shores. A pyroclastic explosion created the West Thumb basin 174,000 years ago. Many of the area's 1,000 to 3,000 annual earthquakes occur under Yellowstone Lake, causing uplift and subsidence events which continue to reshape the water's edge.

Yellowstone Lake is also the site of one of the most extensive conservation efforts in the National Park Service. Park staff work to reduce the impact of invasive lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) on the survival of the native population of cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*).

## Local Services

### 🔍 Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center

See historic exhibits about the park's birds and other wildlife, and dive into the distinctive geology of Yellowstone Lake.

Phone: 307-344-2450.

6/4–9/3 8 AM–7 PM

INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT LAKE HOTEL: SEPT 4

THROUGH OCT 8: 8 AM – 1 PM

📖 Yellowstone Forever Bookstore inside.

### 🏠 Lodging

Lake Hotel and cabins: 5/11–10/8

Lake Lodge and cabins: 6/10–9/23. 🏠

### ⛺ Campgrounds

🚐 Fishing Bridge RV Campground is open 5/11–9/5. **Only hard-sided RVs** are permitted. No tents or soft-sided trailers. 🚰 📶

Bridge Bay Campground is open 5/18–9/23.

### 🍴 Food

Lake Hotel Restaurant 5/11–10/8

Lake Hotel Deli 5/11–10/8

Lake Lodge Cafeteria 6/10–9/23

Fishing Bridge General Store 5/25–9/3.

### 🛢️ Fuel

Fishing Bridge station 5/18–9/3, credit card fueling 24-hours.

🔧 Repairs 5/25–9/3

🚚 Wrecker (406) 848-7548 on duty 5/25–9/3  
RV liquid propane tanks filled.

### 🛒 Shopping

Fishing Bridge General Store 5/25–9/3.

Sells groceries, ice cream, souvenirs, apparel. Has a public water bottle filling station.

Lake General Store 5/11–9/20. Has groceries, snack bar, souvenirs, and apparel.

Bridge Bay Marina Store 5/18–9/9. Sells camping and outdoor gear, snacks, and fishing supplies.

Lake Lodge Gift Store 6/10–9/23

Lake Hotel Gift Store 5/11–10/8

### ⚓ Bridge Bay Marina

🚶 Backcountry Office located at the marina.

🚤 Boat launch ramp and dock slip rentals 5/26–9/9.

🛥️ Motor boat rentals 6/11–9/1.

🚢 One-hour SceniCruise boat tours of Yellowstone Lake run several times daily, 6/11–9/9. Call 307-344-7311 for reservations.

### Other

🏥 Medical Clinic 5/18–9/14, 7 AM–7 PM.  
Phone: 307-242-7241 **Emergency dial 911**

✉️ U.S. Post Office

🚻 **Public restrooms** are located at all visitor centers, stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

♻️ **Recycling** bins are located near the General Stores at Fishing Bridge and Lake Village, and at the Bridge Bay Campground.

## West Thumb



### 🔍 West Thumb Information Station

Pique your curiosity before exploring the boiling springs in the adjacent geyser basin on the shore of Yellowstone Lake.

Phone: 307-344-2650

5/25–10/8 9 AM–5 PM

📖 A self-guiding trail booklet is available for this area.



# Mammoth Hot Springs



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

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

## Local Services

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

Located at Mammoth Hot Springs. Get immersed in the history of Yellowstone and the National Park Service, and the wildlife of Yellowstone's Northern Range. Open daily, year round. Phone: 307-344-2263

5/25–6/19	9 AM–5 PM
6/20–9/3	8 AM–6 PM
9/4–5/24	9 AM–5 PM

 Backcountry Office located inside.

 Yellowstone Forever Bookstore inside.

### **Lodging**

Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel 4/27–9/4.  Showers available for \$4.20. Cabins 4/27–10/14.

### **Campground**

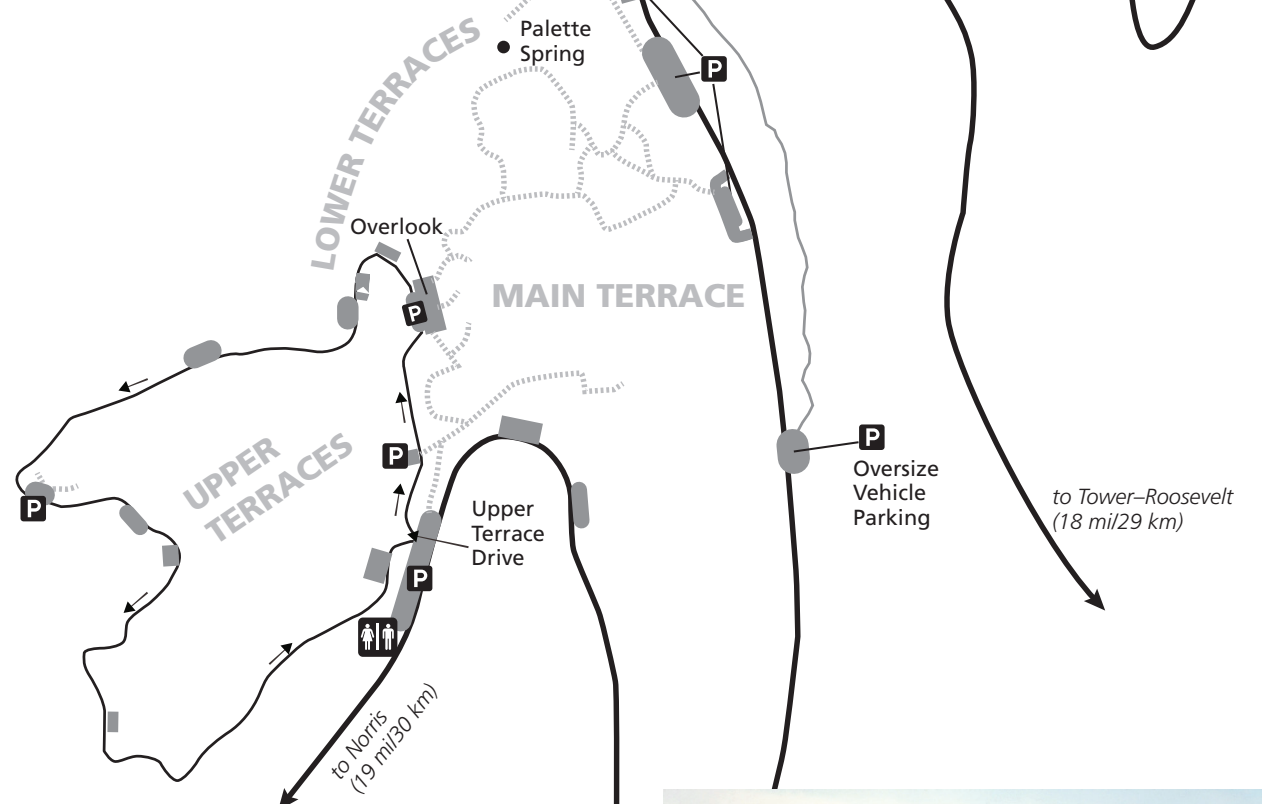
Mammoth Campground is open year-round.


### **Food**

Mammoth Hotel Dining Room 4/27–10/14  
Terrace Grill 4/27–10/14

### **Fuel**

Credit card fueling 24-hours; year-round.  
Liquid propane gas bottle exchange 5/11–9/30




 **Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. Do not touch any thermal features and keep foreign objects out of springs.**

### **Shopping**


Mammoth General Store open year-round. Sells groceries, ice cream, souvenirs, apparel. Has a public water bottle filling station.


Mammoth Hotel Gift Store 4/27–9/3


### **Other**

 **Medical Clinic** 6/1–9/27, open daily 8:30 AM–5 PM; 9/28–5/31 open weekdays. Phone: 307-344-7965 **Emergency dial 911**

 **U.S. Post Office**

 Self-guiding trail booklets are available for the Mammoth Terraces and Fort Yellowstone.

 **Public restrooms** are located at all visitor centers, stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.

 **Recycling** bins are located near the General Store and at the campground.



## Fort Yellowstone

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

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



# Tower/Roosevelt



Tower Falls

## Local Services

- Lodging**  
Roosevelt Lodge is open 6/1–9/3
- Campground**  
Tower Fall Campground is open 5/25–9/24
- Food**  
Roosevelt Lodge Dining Room 6/1–9/3  
Roosevelt Old West Dinner cookout 6/2–9/8
- Fuel**  
Credit card fueling 24-hours, year round.  
Restrooms and C-store open 6/1–9/3
- Shopping**  
Tower Fall General Store 5/18–9/19  
Has groceries, snack bar, souvenirs, apparel, and a public water bottle filling station.  
Roosevelt Mini Store open 6/1–9/3.  
Roosevelt Lodge Gift Store 6/1–9/3
- Other**  
Backcountry Office in ranger station.  
Trail and stagecoach rides offered 6/1–9/2

# Grant Village



## Local Services

- Grant Visitor Center**  
Explore the extraordinary ecological and social impacts of the historic fires of 1988.  
Phone: 307-344-2650  
5/25–6/3 8 AM–5 PM  
6/4–9/3 8 AM–7 PM  
10/4–10/8 9 AM–5 PM  
Backcountry Office located next door.  
Yellowstone Forever Bookstore inside.
- Lodging**  
Grant Lodge 5/25–9/30
- Campgrounds**  
Grant Village Campground 6/8–9/16
- Food**  
Grant Lodge Restaurant 5/25–9/30  
Lake House at Grant 6/1–9/16
- Fuel**  
Open 5/25–9/23, credit card fueling 24-hours.  
Repairs 5/25–9/3  
Wrecker (406) 848-7548 on duty 5/25–9/3  
RV liquid propane tanks filled.
- Shopping**  
Grant General Store 5/25–9/16  
Has groceries, snack bar, souvenirs, apparel, and a public water bottle filling station.  
Grant Mini Store 5/11–9/23  
Sells camping and outdoor gear, footwear, fishing supplies.  
Grant Lodge Gift Store 5/25–9/30
- Other**  
U.S. Post office  
Public restrooms are located at all visitor centers, stores, restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and at or near all picnic areas.



# Norris



- Norris Geyser Basin Museum and Information Station**  
Exhibits about the range of hydrothermal features in Yellowstone. Phone: 307-344-2812  
5/19–10/8 9 AM–5 PM  
Yellowstone Forever Bookstore 10 AM–6 PM  
A self-guiding trail booklet is available for this area.

**Museum of the National Park Ranger**  
Located one mile north of Norris, visit with retired rangers and explore the history of the park ranger profession.  
5/26–9/23 9 AM–5 PM

- Campground**  
Norris Campground is open 5/18–9/24

# Madison

- Madison Information Station**  
Ph: 307-344-2821  
6/1–10/8 9 AM–5 PM  
Yellowstone Forever Bookstore 9 AM–5 PM
- Campground**  
Madison Campground is open 4/27–10/14

# West Yellowstone

- Visitor Information Center**  
Inside the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce find trip planning, fishing permits, and ranger programs. Phone: 307-344-2876  

<i>Chamber of Commerce:</i>	<i>NPS Desk:</i> open daily
4/30–5/20 8 AM–6 PM	4/20–5/25 8 AM–4 PM
5/21–9/3 8 AM–8 PM	5/26–9/3 8 AM–8 PM
9/4–9/30 8 AM–6 PM	9/4–11/4 8 AM–4 PM
10/1–11/10 8 AM–4 PM	
Winter * 8 AM–5 PM	
*weekdays only	

  
Backcountry Office located inside.

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# A Global Legacy

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



## Yellowstone es un lugar peligroso

### Mantenga distancia de los animales

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

### Sea prudente en las zonas termales

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

### Usted es responsable de su seguridad.



## Yellowstone présente de multiples dangers

### Restez à distance des animaux

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

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

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

### Vous êtes responsable de votre sécurité.



## Der Yellowstone-Park ist gefährlich


### Halten Sie sich von Tieren fern

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

### Vorsicht in Thermalbereichen

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

### Sie sind für deren Sicherheit verantwortlich.



## Национальный парк Йеллоустоун опасен.

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



## Yellowstone è pericolosa

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

[go.nps.gov/translate-ynp](https://go.nps.gov/translate-ynp)



## 在黄石国家公园要处处小心危险

### 请与动物保持距离

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

### 请小心温泉

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

### 您对自己的安全负责。



## イエローストーンは危険な場所です


### 動物から距離を置いて下さい

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

### 高温地帯では注意して下さい

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

### 自分自身の身の安全に責任を持って下さい。



## 엘로스톤 국립 공원은 위험한 장소입니다.

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



