

# Yellowstone Spring

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Welcome to your Yellowstone adventure.

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. That means 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)



## Road Safety

**Traffic-related accidents are the most common cause of injury and death in the park.**

- Drive cautiously. The park speed limit is 45 mph (73 kph), except where posted slower.
- Watch out for wildlife on or near roadways.
- Use pullouts. If you need to stop for any reason, use a road pullout and let faster traffic pass.
- Keep the road clear at all times; even when you are watching wildlife.
- Stopping a vehicle, standing, or walking in the road is dangerous to everyone—drivers, pedestrians, and animals.

## Thermal Area Safety

- Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. The ground is unstable in hydrothermal areas.
- Do not push or shove other people.
- Water in geysers and hot springs can severely burn you. Keep hands out.
- Keep litter out of the pools. Do not throw any objects into hydrothermal features.

## Please Use Good Sense and Good Manners

Traveling can be very stressful and it is easy to get overwhelmed. Please remember to **pack your patience** and show courtesy to others.

- Be prepared for potential delays or a change in plans. Allow time for road congestion and crowds at popular destinations.
- Keep children close.
- Observe safe distances and settings for selfies.
- Stay behind fencing, guard rails, and ledges.

## Wildlife Safety

- Animals in Yellowstone are wild and dangerous.
- Stay 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and wolves.
- Stay 25 yards (23 m) away from all other animals. If the animal moves closer—you must back away.
- Bison, bears, and elk have injured and killed visitors. Keep back and give them space to be wild.
- Store food securely.
- Do not feed any animals, even birds and squirrels.



## Bear Country Safety

- Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- Hike in groups of three or more people.
- Make noise to avoid surprise encounters.
- Never run from a bear, they have an instinct to chase.



### Unmanned aircraft prohibited.

Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft (drones) on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service is prohibited. Check at a visitor center or ranger station for further information.

## Yellowstone Pledge



Join the growing community of people who have committed to the preservation of this national treasure by taking the Yellowstone Pledge. Follow park rules listed in this newspaper and refer to the pledge online at [go.nps.gov/YellowstonePledge](http://go.nps.gov/YellowstonePledge), then share your Yellowstone experience. Inspire others to preserve the wonders of Yellowstone unimpaired for future generations with **#YellowstonePledge** on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter!

## More Inside

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## Emergency

## Dial 911

Information line	307-344-7381
TTY	307-344-2386
Road updates	307-344-2117
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.

**Lost and found** • Call 307-344-5387 to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities. To report or retrieve items lost in other parts of the park, call 307-344-2109.

**All hazards NOAA weather radio** • If you have a weather radio receiver, tune to 162.425 MHz (Mammoth area) or 162.450 MHz (Lake area) to receive hazardous weather alerts. You can also check for updates posted at [www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/nwr/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/nwr/)



**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.

## Prohibited activities

**The following activities are not allowed in Yellowstone. They are dangerous or destructive and carry legal penalties, including fines.**

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

This is only a partial list of regulations. For more information, consult 36 CFR and the Superintendent's Compendium posted online at [www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm)



Smoking is prohibited all thermal areas. You may not smoke in buildings or within 25 feet of building entrances.

Cigarette butts quickly accumulate in areas where smoking is allowed. Please help us keep the park free of litter.

## In-park Reservations

### Yellowstone National Park Lodges

As one of Yellowstone's official concession companies, Xanterra 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 and information are available at park hotels and at:  
307-344-7311  
TDD: 307-344-5395

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

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



## Accessibility

A printed guide for visitors who use wheelchairs 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.

Animals that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including animals that are used purely to provide comfort or emotional support ("therapy animals"), are considered pets.

## Cell phone service



Cell phone service is limited in the park and surrounding areas. Cell service may be accessible in some developed areas and at the North and West Entrances. Cell tower locations are identified on the park map (back cover). Check with your provider to confirm coverage areas. 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 lounge, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Lake Lodge cafeteria, and the Canyon and Grant Lodges for a fee. Connectivity is very limited and may not be available at all times.

The Horace M. Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs has free wi-fi.



COURTESY XANTERRA PARKS & RESORTS

## Pets



**Control your pet.** Pets are not allowed on trails or boardwalks, in the backcountry, or in hydrothermal basins. Where allowed, pets must be leashed and remain within 100 feet (30.5 m) of a road or parking area. Do not leave a pet unattended, tied to an object, or without adequate food, water, shade, ventilation, or other basic needs. Owners must bag and dispose of pet waste. We recommend that someone in your group remain with your pet to personally ensure their well being.

## Firearms



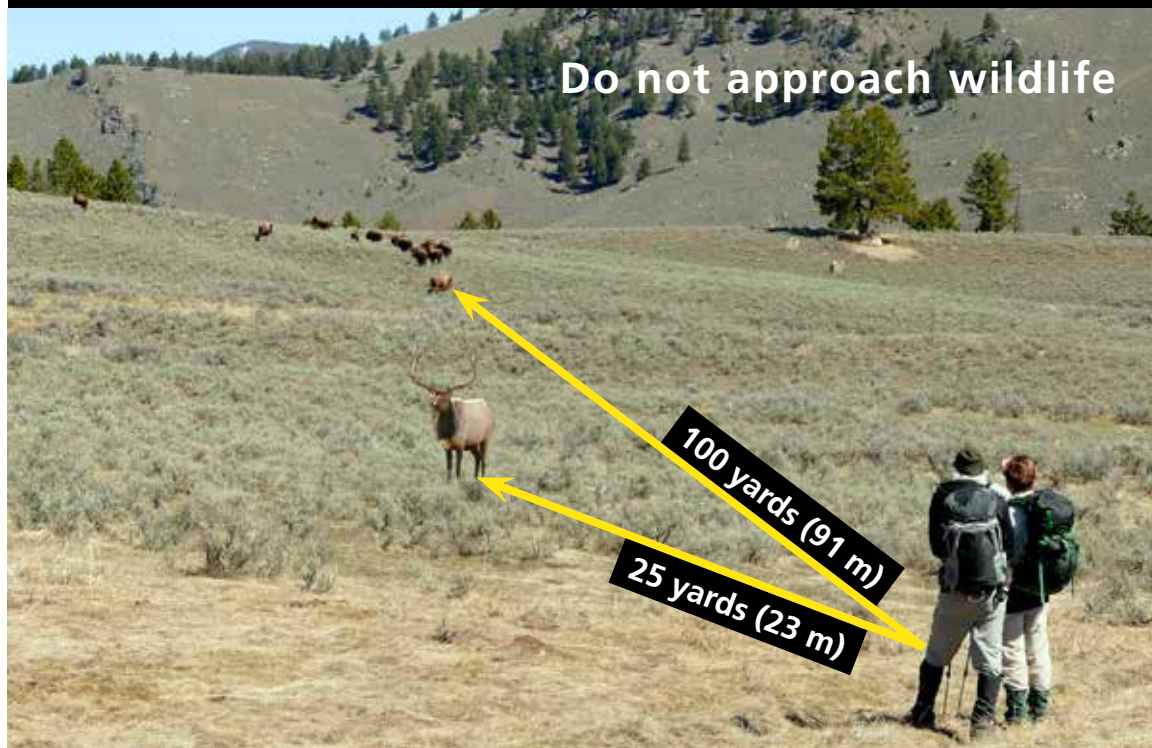
**Know your responsibilities.** Firearms are allowed in national parks pursuant to state and federal regulation. They are prohibited in facilities where signs are posted, such as visitor centers, government offices, and some concession operations. Discharge of firearms is prohibited. Possession and use 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)

## Health concerns

- Toxic gases may exist at dangerous levels in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave immediately.
- Much of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow yourself time to acclimate.
- Drink plenty of liquids to avoid dehydration.
- Be aware of your physical limitations and don't overexert. **Strenuous activities are not recommended for visitors with heart, lung, or other health conditions.**



## Keep your distance



- Federal regulations require you to stay at least **100 yards (91m)** away from bears and wolves, and at least **25 yards (23 m)** away from all other wild animals, such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and coyotes.
- If an animal moves closer to you, you 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 scene and notify a park ranger.



## How to photograph wildlife

**Have reasonable expectations of your camera.** A cell phone camera will not be able to capture the same resolutions 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.



## Keep your food secure



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

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

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

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

## Stay on boardwalks



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

You may be safer on designated trails and boardwalks, however wildlife can still approach you. On trails, boardwalks, and sidewalks, maintain the minimum distance from animals at all times. This might require you to turn back the way you came, or find a safe detour.

## Translations available



翻译可用在入口站、游客中心，并在官方网站上。



Übersetzungen zur Verfügung bei Eingang, Besucherzentren, und auf der offiziellen Website.



翻訳可能エントランス局、ビジター センター、公式のウェブサイト。



Traducciones disponibles en las estaciones de entrada, centros de visitantes, y en la web oficial.



Traductions disponibles aux postes d'entrée, centres d'accueil, et sur le site officiel.



Переводы доступны на вход станциях, центры для посетителей и на официальном сайте.



Traduzioni disponibili alle stazioni di ingresso, centri visitatori, e sul sito ufficiale.



번역 가능한 입구 역, 방문자 센터 및 공식 웹사이트에.

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



## Hiking in bear habitat

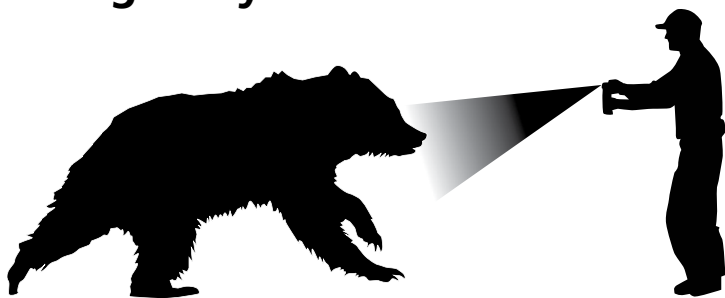
- **BE ALERT**  
watch for bears, fresh tracks, or scat.
- **MAKE NOISE**  
in areas with limited visibility.
- **CARRY BEAR SPRAY**  
and know how to use it.
- **HIKE WITH THREE**  
or more people.
- **DO NOT RUN.**  
Bears have an instinct to chase.

## Bear Encounters

Check at local visitor centers or ranger stations for recent bear activity before hiking, and respect all bear management closure areas.

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

## Charged by a bear



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

### If a bear charges at you:

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

### If the bear continues to charge:

- Spray into the bear's face.

Once discharged, it is difficult to tell how much spray remains in the canister. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for canister replacement. For more information about your safety in bear country visit <http://go.nps.gov/bearsafe>.

## Be prepared for bear encounters



**Safety For Bears,  
Safety For People**

## Be Aware, Be Prepared

Hiking in bear country has inherent risks. You are likely to be safer if you stay on roads and official trails but **your safety cannot be guaranteed.**

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

To avoid attracting bears, store all food, trash, scented items, coolers, and cooking tools in a bear-resistant container or your vehicle. Tents, truck beds, unattended packs, and picnic tables are not safe 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 the Summer Ranger Programs supplement for times and locations.



## Bear Spray Rentals

Bear Aware LLC rents bear spray from May 27 to September 30. The rental kiosk is located at the north end of the Canyon Visitor Education Center plaza.

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

### Rental Returns

Rentals can be returned at the Canyon kiosk or at gas stations at Mammoth, Tower, Fishing Bridge, Grant, and Old Faithful.



## Bear Spray Recycling

Bear spray cannot be taken on airplanes and should not be 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.



# Park Highlights



## 1 Mammoth Hot Springs

Explore along the boardwalks winding through ever-changing travertine terraces and enjoy a scenic drive through the Upper Terraces.



## 3 Norris Geyser Basin

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



## 4 Madison

The Madison River is formed at the junction of the Gibbon and Firehole rivers. The Information Station dates from 1929-30 and is a National Historic Landmark.



## 5 Midway Geyser Basin

Midway hosts two of the largest hydrothermal features of their types found anywhere in the world. Grand Prismatic is a huge hot spring and Excelsior Geyser is one of the largest geysers.



## 2 Fort Yellowstone

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



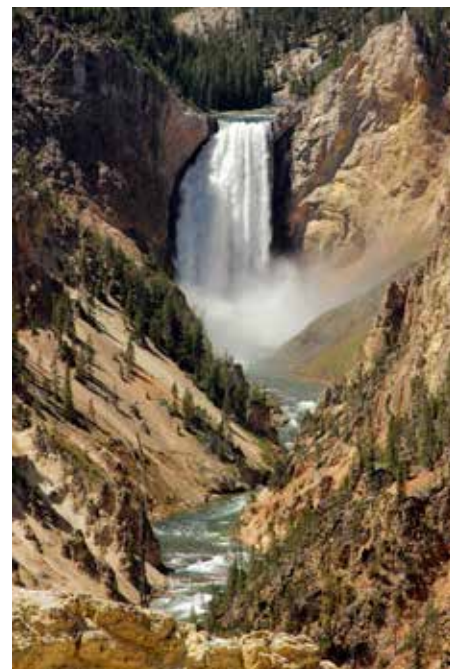
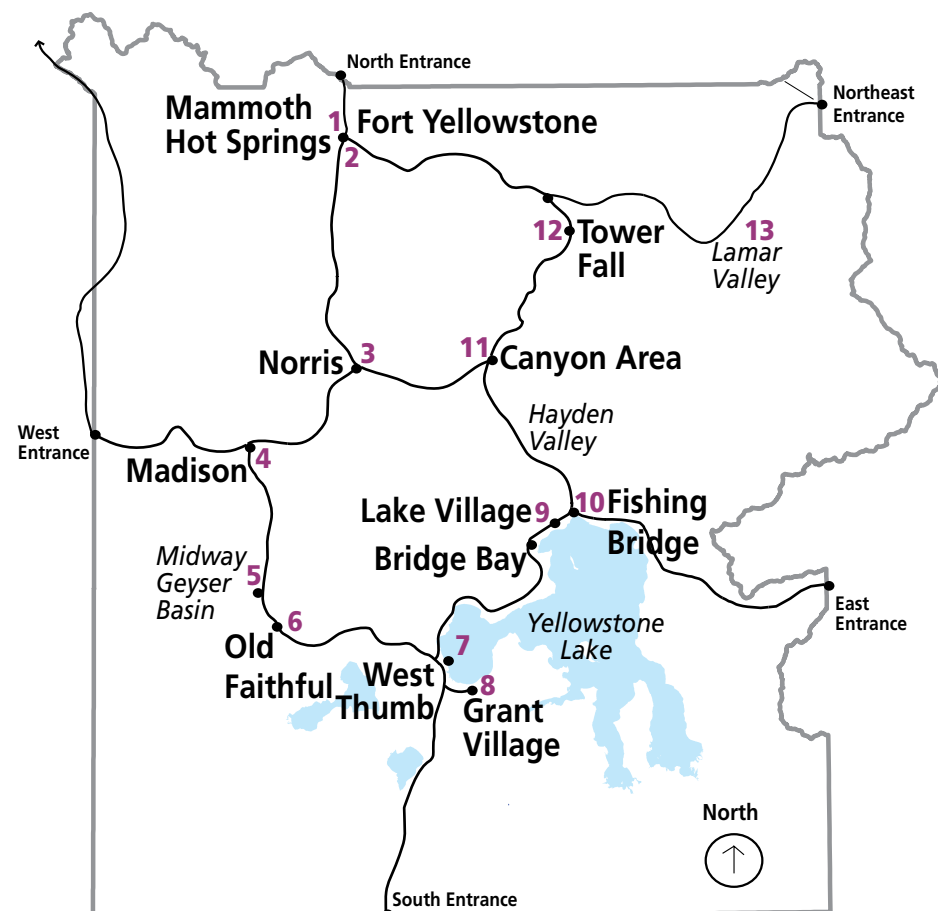
## 12 Tower Fall

Overlook the 132-foot drop of Tower Creek, framed by eroded volcanic pinnacles.



## 13 Lamar Valley

The Lamar Valley has been a wolf watching mecca since the wolves were reintroduced in 1995.



## 11 Canyon Area

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



## 6 Old Faithful Area

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

## Old Faithful Historic District

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



## 7 West Thumb Geyser Basin

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



## 8 Grant Village

The Grant visitor center interprets fire's role in the environment, using the fires of 1988 as the example.



## 9 Lake Village Yellowstone

Lake is the largest high-elevation lake (above 7,000 feet) in North America. It has 141 miles of shoreline and is more than 400 feet deep.



## 10 Fishing Bridge

A popular place to observe fish, shore birds and other wildlife.



## Fishing season opens May 27



General fishing season opens May 27. Some areas remain closed until July 15. Fishing regulations in Yellowstone protect the unique values of the park ecosystem and conserve native fish species. Fishing permits are required in Yellowstone, state-issued fishing permits are not valid within the park. Anglers 16 years or older need a permit in the park. Younger children can fish for free under certain conditions.

Anglers are 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

Special tackle restrictions are also in effect for park waters:

- Hooks must be barbless.
- Tackle and lures must be non-toxic. Lead split-shot sinkers, soft lead-weighted ribbon, and other toxic tackle are not allowed.
- Bait is not allowed. Organic bait (worms, minnows, etc.) and inorganic bait (rubber worms, scented attractant, etc.) are both prohibited.

Permits are available as facilities open. Inquire at ranger stations, visitor centers, or general stores, and at select locations outside the park. Regulations are posted at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm)

## Bicycle safely



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

Regulations require that cyclists ride single file and we strongly recommend wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing. Park roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders. During April, May, and June, high snowbanks may make travel more dangerous. Road elevations range from 5,300 to 8,860 feet (1,615 to 2,700 meters), and services and facilities are relatively far apart. Be wary of over-exertion.

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

## 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)

### These activities require a permit

- Fishing
- Boating or use of float tubes
- Overnight backcountry camping
- Travel with a service animal in the backcountry
- Stock entry into the park requires Coggins testing.



### Backcountry Offices are located at:

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

## Boating



Motorized boating is allowed on most of Yellowstone Lake and on Lewis Lake. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most other lakes. Only one river is open to non-motorized boating, the Lewis River channel between Lewis and Shoshone lakes. Permits are required for all boats and float tubes. Boaters must have a Coast Guard-approved wearable flotation device for each person.

**All boat permits** (motorized, non-motorized, and float tubes) can be purchased at the South Entrance, Grant Village Backcountry Office, and Bridge Bay Ranger Station.

**Float tube permits** are available for anglers at Mammoth, Canyon, and Old Faithful backcountry offices, Northeast Entrance, and Bechler Ranger Station.

**All boats will be inspected** by NPS rangers for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) when



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

obtaining a permit. As a precaution, any type of watercraft suspected of harboring AIS will be subject to a non-chemical decontamination treatment.

Transporting water, or any aquatic plants and animals into park waters is illegal. **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. Watercraft users and anglers are asked to inspect all items that may come in contact with park waters, ensuring that they are clean and dry. If you witness a violation, call 307-344-7381 or contact a ranger.

### Park waters are swift and cold

- Swimming in park rivers is not recommended. Currents can be strong and fast.
- Swimming in hot springs is prohibited.
- There is no lifeguard on duty at the Firehole Canyon Drive swimming area. Cliff jumping is prohibited and parking is limited.



## Programs 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 new

Junior Ranger activity booklet for \$3. To earn your official Yellowstone Junior Ranger patch, you need to:

- Hike on a park trail or boardwalk.
- Complete the age-appropriate activities on 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

Children can become a Young Scientist by buying a self-guiding booklet for \$5 at the Canyon Visitor Education Center (ages 10 and older) or Old Faithful Visitor Education



Center (ages 5 and older). If you investigate the Old Faithful area, check out a Young Scientist Toolkit for the gear you need. Once you finish, you will be awarded a Young Scientist patch or key chain.

### Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade Pass

*Every Kid in a Park* invites 4th graders and their families to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. The

*Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade Pass* is free for U.S. 4th grade students and covers entrance fees on federally managed lands and waters. The pass is valid for 12 months beginning September of the year that the student begins 4th grade. Qualifying students must present a valid paper voucher printed from the *Every Kid in a Park* website (<http://everykidinapark.gov>) to be exchanged for the pass. We are unable to issue refunds for fees paid before presentation of the voucher.



## Tours and activities

### Authorized guides and outfitters

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

[www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm](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

[www.Yellowstone.org](http://www.Yellowstone.org)

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

- Commercial filming, regardless of equipment, and photography with props or models, require permits.

## Visitor centers and museums

### Albright Visitor Center

Located at Mammoth Hot Springs. Exhibits focus on the history of Yellowstone and the National Park Service, and the wildlife of Yellowstone's Northern Range.

Open daily, year round  
Through 5/26 9 AM–5 PM  
5/27–9/30 8 AM–7 PM  
10/1–winter 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2263

### Canyon Visitor Education Center

Explore Yellowstone's supervolcano and geology.

4/21–4/30\* 9 AM–5 PM  
(\*Lobby and info desk only)  
5/1–5/26 9 AM–5 PM  
5/27–9/4 8 AM–8 PM  
9/5–9/30 8 AM–6 PM  
10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2550

### Fishing Bridge Museum and Visitor Center

See vintage exhibits about the park's birds and other wildlife, and Yellowstone Lake's geology.

5/26–9/30 8 AM–7 PM  
Call 307-344-2450

### Grant Visitor Center

Delve into the extraordinary impact of the park's historic fires of 1988.

5/26–9/30 8 AM–7 PM  
10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2650

### Madison Information and Junior Ranger Station

5/26–9/30 9 AM–6 PM  
*Junior Ranger Station programs 5/26–9/4*  
Bookstore 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2821

### Museum of the National Park Ranger

Located one mile north of Norris, explore the history of the park ranger profession and visit with retired rangers.  
5/27–9/24 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-7353

### Norris Geyser Basin Museum and Information Station

Exhibits about the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone.  
5/20–9/30 9 AM–6 PM  
Bookstore 10 AM–6 PM  
Call 307-344-2812

### Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

Dynamic exhibits about hydrothermal features. Call ahead for Geyser eruption predictions.

4/21–5/26 9 AM–6 PM  
5/27–9/30 8 AM–8 PM  
10/1–11/5 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2751

### West Thumb Information Station

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

5/26–9/30 9 AM–5 PM  
10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM  
Call 307-344-2650

### West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center

Chamber of Commerce open weekdays in winter through 4/30 8 AM–5 PM. Open daily:

5/1–5/20 8 AM–6 PM  
5/21–9/4 8 AM–8 PM  
9/5–9/30 8 AM–6 PM

NPS Desk open daily:

4/21–5/26 8 AM–4 PM  
5/27–9/4 8 AM–8 PM  
9/5–11/5 8 AM–4 PM  
Call 307-344-2876

## 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. A few short hikes are described below to get you started.

### Two Ribbons

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

### Wraith Falls

This easy 1-mile (1.5 km) trail begins at a pullout 0.5 miles (0.8 km) east of Lava Creek Picnic Area. It passes through sagebrush meadows, marshland, and mixed conifer forest to the base of 79-foot (24 m) Wraith Falls on Lupine Creek.

### Pelican Creek

Starting at the west end of Pelican Creek bridge, 1.0 mile (1.6 km) east of the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center, this easy trail travels through forest and along the lakeshore.



# Camping makes memories for a lifetime

## First-come, first-served

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

## Reservable sites

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

## 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.

## Discounts

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

## Know your vehicle, tent, and tow sizes

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

## Quiet hours

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



All of your food, cooking utensils, and garbage must be kept secure unless in immediate use.

## 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 all 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



- Δ 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

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

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 Δ	4/28–10/15	\$24.25 Ω	278	6,800	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Fishing Bridge RV Δ	5/5–9/17	\$47.75 Ω	346	7,800	F, S/L, 2S, DS, G, ‡	Call for availability and reservations
Norris	5/19–9/25	\$20	>100	7,500	A, F, G	2 sites are 50 ft (signed), 5 sites are 30 ft
Tower Fall	5/26–9/25	\$15	31	6,600	V	All sites are 30 ft or less. Has hairpin curve
Bridge Bay Δ	5/19–9/11	\$24.25 Ω	432	7,800	A, F, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Canyon Δ	5/26–9/24	\$29 Ω	273	7,900	A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations
Indian Creek	6/9–9/11	\$15	70	7,300	A, V	10 sites are 35 ft, 35 sites are 30 ft
Pebble Creek	6/15–9/25	\$15	27	6,900	V	Some long pull-throughs
Slough Creek	6/15-10/7	\$15	23	6,250	V	14 sites at 30 ft – walk first to assess sites
Lewis Lake	6/15–11/5	\$15	85	7,800	V	All sites are 25 ft or less
Grant Village Δ	6/9–9/17	\$29 Ω	430	7,800	A, F, S/L, 2S, DS, G	Call for availability and reservations

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



	Canyon Village	Fishing Bridge	Grant & West Thumb	Lake & Bridge Bay	Mammoth Hot Springs	Norris	Old Faithful	Tower & Roosevelt	West Entrance & Madison
<b>Visitor information</b> bookstores, books, videos, maps, gifts, educational items 	Visitor Education Center 4/21–5/26: 9 AM–5 PM <i>(Limited services through 4/30)</i> 5/27–9/4 8 AM–8 PM 9/5–9/30 8 AM–6 PM 10/1–11/5 9 AM–5 PM  has water bottle filling station	Visitor Center 5/26–9/30 8 AM–7 PM  10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM	Visitor Center (Grant) 5/26–9/30 8 AM–7 PM Information Station (West Thumb) 5/26–9/30 9 AM–5 PM Both sites 10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM		Albright Visitor Center Through 5/26 9 AM–5 PM  5/27–9/30 8 AM–7 PM  10/1 through winter 9 AM–5 PM  has water bottle filling station	Norris Geyser Basin Museum 5/20–9/30 9 AM–6 PM 10/1–10/9 9 AM–5 PM  Museum of the National Park Ranger 5/27–9/24 9 AM–5 PM	Visitor Education Center 4/21–5/26 9 AM–6 PM  5/27–9/30 8 AM–8 PM  10/1–11/5 9 AM–5 PM  has water bottle filling station		West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center: NPS Desk 4/21–5/26 8 AM–4 PM 5/27–9/4 8 AM–8 PM 9/5–11/5 8 AM–4 PM  Madison Information Station 5/26–9/30 9 am–6 pm 10/1–10/9 9 am–5 pm
<b>Medical clinic</b> 				5/12–9/23 307-242-7241	Year-round, except weekends and some holidays.  307-344-7965		5/12–10/1 307-545-7325		
<b>Service stations</b> snacks, drinks, ice. All have credit card service at pumps 24 hrs/day 	Gas: 4/21–10/22 Repairs: 5/26–9/4 Wrecker: 4/28–10/15  LP gas available  406-848-7548	Gas: 5/5–9/17 Repairs: 5/26–9/4 Wrecker: 5/26–9/4  LP Gas available  406-848-7548	Gas (Grant): 5/26–9/24 Repairs: 5/26–9/4 Wrecker 5/26–9/4  LP Gas available  406-848-7548		5/12–10/1  LP gas available  Call 406-848-7548 for assistance		Lower: 4/28–10/8 Upper: 5/19–9/11 Repairs: 5/27–9/5 Wrecker: 4/28–10/8  LP gas available  406-848-7548	6/2–9/4  LP gas available  406-848-7548	
<b>General stores</b> groceries, ice cream, restaurant, souvenirs, apparel 	5/12–10/8  has water bottle filling station	5/5–10/15  has water bottle filling station	Grant 5/26–9/17  also has footwear, outdoor supplies	Lake 5/12–9/24	Year-round no restaurant  has water bottle filling station		Upper: 4/28–10/29 Lower: 5/5–9/24  have water bottle filling stations	Tower 5/19–9/17  has water bottle filling station	
<b>Specialty/Mini stores</b> recreation gear, snacks, fast food souvenirs 	Yellowstone Adventures 4/21–11/5  Camping and outdoor gear, footwear, fishing supplies		Grant 5/12–9/24	Bridge Bay 5/19–9/3  Camping and outdoor gear, fishing supplies				Roosevelt 6/9–9/3	
<b>Gift shops</b>	Canyon Lodge 6/2–10/8		Grant Village 5/19–10/1	Lake Hotel 5/12–10/8  Lake Lodge 6/10–9/24	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Open late summer–10/9		Old Faithful Inn 5/5–10/8 OF Snow Lodge 4/21–11/5 Old Faithful Lodge 5/19–10/1	Roosevelt Lodge 6/9–9/4	
<b>Hotel</b> 	Canyon Lodge 6/2–10/8		Grant Village 5/19–10/1	Lake Hotel 5/12–10/8  has water bottle filling station	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Open late summer–10/9		Old Faithful Inn 5/5–10/8 OF Snow Lodge 4/28–10/22		
<b>Cabins</b> 	Canyon Lodge 6/2–10/8			Lake Hotel 5/12–10/8 Lake Lodge 6/10–9/24	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel 4/28–10/9		OF Snow Lodge 4/28–10/22 Old Faithful Lodge 5/19–10/1	Roosevelt Lodge 6/9–9/4	
<b>Restaurants</b> 	Canyon Lodge 6/2–10/8		Grant Village 5/19–10/1 Lake House at Grant 5/26–9/24	Lake Hotel 5/12–10/8	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel 4/28–10/9		Old Faithful Inn 5/5–10/8 OF Snow Lodge 4/28–10/22	Roosevelt Lodge 6/9–9/4	
<b>Cafeteria</b> 	Canyon Lodge 6/2–10/8			Lake Lodge 6/10–9/24			Old Faithful Lodge 5/19–10/1		
<b>Snacks</b> light meals, fast food 	<div> Road, service, and program schedules may change.  Check locally and at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/YELL">www.nps.gov/YELL</a> for current information. </div>						Old Faithful Inn, Bear Paw Deli: 5/5–10/7 Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Geyser Grill 4/21–11/5 Old Faithful Lodge Bake Shop 5/19–10/1		
<b>Showers</b> 	Canyon Campground 5/26–9/24	RV park 5/5–9/17	Grant Campground 6/9–9/17		Mammoth Hotel 4/28–10/9		Old Faithful Inn 5/5–10/8	Roosevelt Lodge 6/9–9/4	
<b>Laundry</b> 	Canyon Campground 5/26–9/24	RV park 5/5–9/17	Grant Campground 6/9–9/17	Lake Lodge 6/10–9/24			OF Snow Lodge 4/28–10/22		
<b>Marina, boat tours, trail rides</b>   	Trail Rides 6/21–9/3			Bridge Bay Dock rental 5/19–9/10 Scenicruise Boat Tours 6/12–9/10				Trail & Stagecoach Rides 6/9–9/3 Cookout 6/10–9/9	
<b>Wi-Fi</b>  connectivity is limited. May not be available at all times.	Canyon Lodge: \$		Grant Lodge: \$  Lake Lodge Cafeteria: \$		Albright Visitor Center: Free  Mammoth Hotel lounge: Closed 2017		OF Snow Lodge: \$		



**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.*

## Famously hot features



The bubbling mudpots of Fountain Paint Pots vary in thickness and satisfying plopping noises as local precipitation changes.

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

**Hot springs** are the most common hydrothermal features in the park. They vary from frothing mocha-like boiling water to clear and calm pools of 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 Upper Geyser Basin has the largest concentration of active hydrothermal features in the world.

## How do geysers work?



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

The Upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National Park has the largest concentration of geysers in the world. Geysers are hot springs with narrow spaces in their plumbing, usually near the surface. These constrictions prevent water from circulating freely to the surface where heat would escape. The deepest circulating water can exceed the surface boiling point (199°F/93°C).

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

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

Water is expelled faster than it can enter the geyser's plumbing system, and the heat and pressure gradually decrease. The eruption stops when the water reservoir is exhausted or when the system cools.

Yellowstone's geyser basins contain fountain-type geysers and cone-type geysers. Fountain-type geysers shoot water out in various directions from a pool of water. Cone-type geysers, like Lone Star Geyser (*photo left*) erupt in a concentrated jet of water from inside a rock formation.

## Where biology and geology thrive

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

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

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

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



Microorganisms thrive in the shallow pools around a geyser cone.

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



## Joining the herd



**Baby bison mark one of the first signs of spring in Yellowstone.**

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

Cows, calves, and some younger bulls comprise a herd. Mature bulls spend most of the year alone or with other bulls, except during the rut, or mating season.

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 them in open country along the Lamar, Yellowstone, Firehole, and Madison rivers.

Calves can keep up with the herd just 2–3 hours after birth. Their mothers and other herd members work cooperatively to protect the young from predators and other dangers.

## Invasive lake trout

Yellowstone Lake’s native cutthroat trout are severely threatened by lake trout, voracious predators that were introduced illegally to the lake. Adult cutthroat trout are a critical food source for a variety of wildlife such as ospreys, pelicans, cormorants, gulls, and otters.

The park now targets lake trout with an intensive gill-netting program that begins each spring after ice is gone from Yellowstone Lake and continues into October. While managers don’t expect to eliminate lake trout entirely, they do hope to limit growth of the population and to recover cutthroat trout to the greatest extent possible.



**Each year, an individual lake trout can prey upon as many as 41 cutthroat trout. Differences in spawning and swimming depths mean that lake trout do not fulfill the same ecological functions as cutthroat trout.**

## Wild lands and wildfire

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

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

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

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



## 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.

Both **grizzly** and **black bear** cubs were born in the deep winter months of January and February, while their mother still hibernated. In April and May, they begin to venture out with their mother as she digs for roots, insects, and squirrels. 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.

**Sandhill cranes** also return to Yellowstone in April, usually in pairs. Listen for their guttural calling; because they blend well with their grassland habitat, they are heard long before seen. If you observe a long-legged, tall bird, look closely—it’s likely to be the sandhill.

**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.

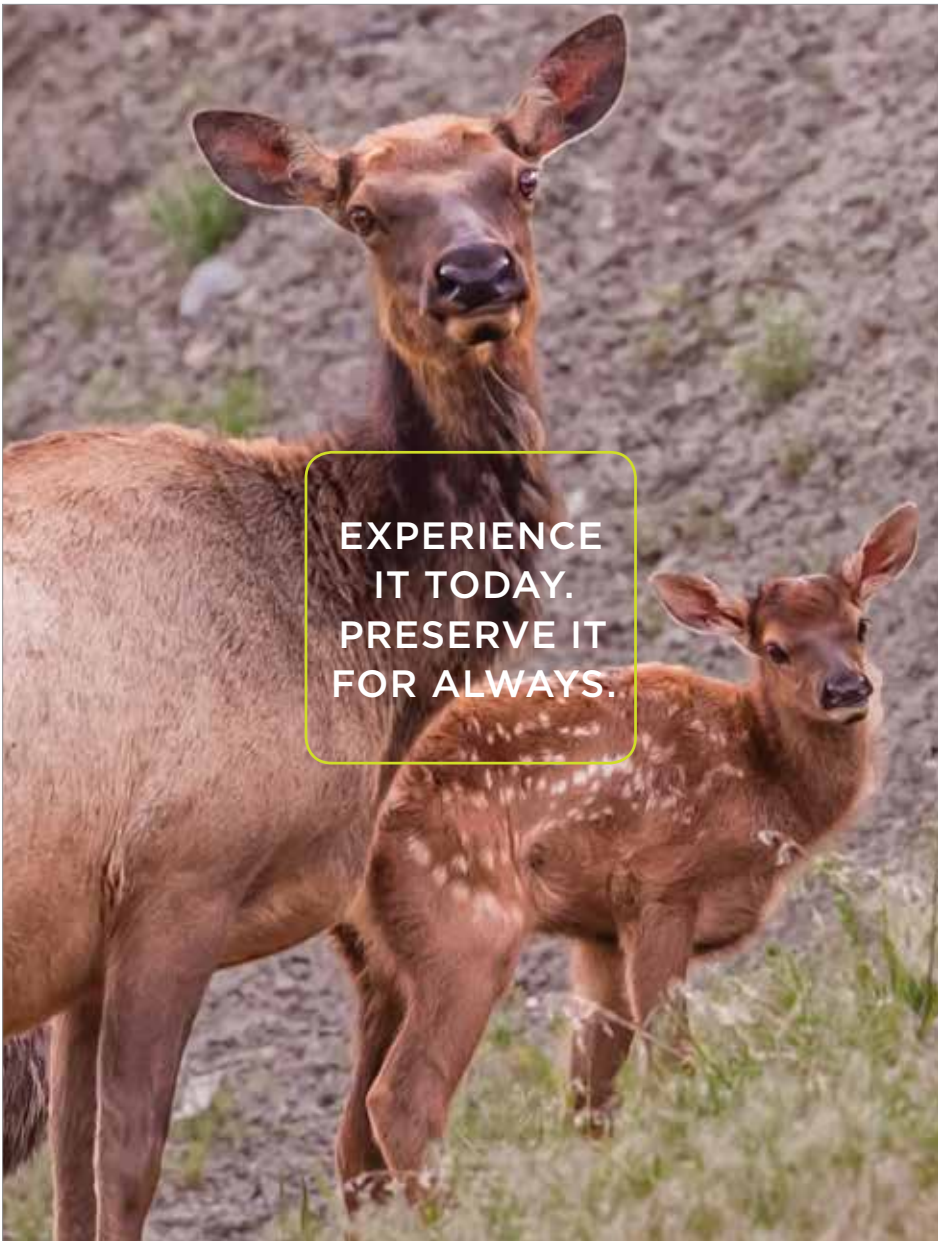
## An inside look at park heritage



The **Heritage and Research Center** 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. The temporary exhibit: “*The Hayden Survey Through the Eyes of the Artists*” chronicles the work of Henry Wood Elliott, Thomas Moran, and William Henry Jackson.

Although primarily a storage and research facility, tours provide an inside look at some of the collections. Tours are available Wednesdays at 2 PM, May 31 through September 6, and are limited to 15 people. For reservations, please call 307-344-2264.





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PHOTO ELK MOTHER AND CALF; JIM FUTTERER



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone Forever partners with Yellowstone National Park to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance, and preserve Yellowstone forever.

**Preserve Yellowstone National Park** for future generations. Join more than 50,000 Yellowstone Forever supporters around the world who have made a commitment to visitor education and park preservation.

**Gain a deeper connection** to the park. The Yellowstone Forever Institute offers programs that help foster lifelong connections to Yellowstone and the natural world.

**Support Yellowstone** through our educational Park Stores. Visit our year-round locations in Mammoth Hot Springs, Old Faithful, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, and Gardiner.

**Join our online community** of more than 300,000 worldwide.

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## SETTING the STANDARD for AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

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

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

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

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

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



Delaware North is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.

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

*"I came to Yellowstone to find happiness in an otherwise mundane life. I had a great job, a house, and lots of toys. What I didn't have was happiness, passion, or purpose.*

*Then the strangest thing happened. I did find happiness.*

*I found my **peace** in nature,  
my **passion** in photography,  
and my **home** in Yellowstone."*

*-Ricky Harney, Employee, Photographer, and Writer*

**YELLOWSTONE**  
NATIONAL PARK LODGES

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Photo credit: Ricky Harney, Healing Soul Photography



# Partners in Sustainability

## The National Park Service mission

*The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.*

Our commitment to environmental stewardship extends to sustainable operations and facilities. Yellowstone National Park, park concessioners, and partners work together to reduce the park's ecological footprint from our operations and the services we provide, preserving natural resources through sustainable practices and extending the benefits of resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

During your time in Yellowstone and beyond, we encourage you to do your part by practicing the following:



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



We encourage you to stay hydrated during your visit. We also ask visitors to please use a reusable water bottle and fill it up for free at our many water filling locations. All Yellowstone tap water is clean and ready to drink. Water in cans or boxes is sold in some stores as an alternative to single-use plastic containers.



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



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



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

This sustainability message is brought to you by the Yellowstone Environmental Coordinating Committee (YECC), a team of National Park Service employees, park concessioners, and non-profit partners combining efforts to realize sustainability achievements in Yellowstone National Park. The YECC is comprised of representatives from Delaware North Companies, Medcor Inc., National Park Service, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone Forever, and Yellowstone Park Service Stations.

## Changing climate, new challenges



Climate change poses a major threat to sensitive species like the American pika (*Ochotona princeps*).

The National Park Service anticipates that climate change will create significant challenges to the preservation of park resources, infrastructure, and visitor experience.

Within Yellowstone specifically, scientists expect ecosystem changes due to increased temperatures and changing rain and snow patterns. Some observed and expected effects of climate change are:

- Average temperatures in the park are higher now than they were 50 years ago, especially during springtime.
- In the last 50 years, the growing season has increased by roughly 30 days in some areas of the park.
- Snowpack throughout the area is decreasing and snow is melting faster in the spring. The change in park snowpack levels affects stream flow during summer and fall, impacting agriculture and municipal water supplies downstream.
- The alpine zone, which currently begins at 9,500 feet, may shift higher, decreasing or eliminating species that live in this important habitat.
- Wildland fire in the western states is expected to intensify and become more frequent. Fires will likely continue to occur over longer periods of the year—an extended "fire season".
- Increases in insect or disease infestations in trees are likely. Currently, five types of insect pest and one nonnative fungus are attacking regional forests.
- Declining wetlands will decrease essential habitat for frogs, salamanders, and many birds and insects.
- Grassland animals should be able to find suitable habitat. However, migration patterns may change as vegetation growth begins earlier in spring.
- Some of grizzly bears' most nutritious foods, like whitebark pine nuts and army cutworm moths, may become less abundant.
- Native plants may be lost and replaced with nonnative invasive exotic plants more adapted to earlier, wetter springs, and dryer late-season conditions.



The elusive wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) requires deep snow to build a den for birthing and rearing young. Decreased snowpack may cause declines in the already sparse population.

## MEDICAL SERVICES AT YELLOWSTONE

**EMERGENCIES** Dial "911" or contact a National Park Service ranger. Specially trained rangers provide rescue, emergency care, and ambulance service.

**MEDICAL CLINICS** Medcor operates three urgent-care clinics within Yellowstone, staffed by a board-certified physician, PAs, NPs, and RNs. These clinics are open to the public and are equipped for most medical emergencies as well as routine care. Services include injury and illness treatment, x-rays, and some lab and pharmacy. If in-patient care or advanced services are required, the clinic staff can stabilize patients and arrange for appropriate transfer to a hospital.

**EASTERN IDAHO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER** Air and ground ambulance, emergency medical direction, training, and trauma/specialty care from one of the top Trauma Centers in the U.S. [www.eirmc.com](http://www.eirmc.com)

**+** **Mammoth Clinic** (307) 344-7965  
Open year round Mon - Fri  
June 1 - September 30;  
also open Sat & Sun

**+** **Lake Clinic** (307) 242-7241  
Open mid May - late September;  
7 days a week

**+** **Old Faithful Clinic** (307) 545-7325  
Open mid May - early October;  
7 days a week

Call for hours of operation. Walk-in patients welcome.  
For more information visit [www.medcor.com/Yellowstone](http://www.medcor.com/Yellowstone)





## Annual and lifetime passes



Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks charge separate entrance fees. People visiting both parks can save money by purchasing a two-park pass or an Interagency Annual Pass.

### Annual Passes (Photo ID required)

Yellowstone National Park	\$60
Interagency (multiple federal fee areas)	\$80
Active Duty Military	Free <sup>§</sup>
Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade	Free <sup>†</sup>

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

Interagency Senior (age 62 +)	\$10 <sup>‡</sup>
Interagency Access (Permanently disabled)	Free <sup>‡</sup>

<sup>§</sup> Annual pass for active duty U.S. military and dependents with proper identification: CAC or DD Form 1173 only.

<sup>†</sup> Printed paper voucher from *Every Kid in a Park* website (<http://everykidinapark.gov>) must be presented to redeem annual pass. Student must be present in vehicle at time of use.

<sup>‡</sup> Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports are still accepted, or can be exchanged for newer passes.

### Your Fee Dollars at Work

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## Interagency annual pass



### America the Beautiful: National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass

The Interagency Annual Pass is valid at federal recreation sites, including national parks and wildlife refuges, where entrance fees are charged. You can purchase it at Yellowstone's

entrance stations, at Yellowstone Forever stores, or visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>

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

### Already paid?

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



## Free NPS Yellowstone apps



### NPS Yellowstone National Park

Discover the stories behind scenery as you explore Yellowstone. Learn about historic places and natural features. Find visitor centers, places to stay and eat, and shopping and services throughout the park.

#### Features

- Explore the **Interactive map** to discover where features and services are located.
- Discover rich natural and cultural resources with self-guided walking **tours**.
- Get information about **special events** and programs, including links to geyser predictions and road construction.
- Share a digital **postcard** with friends and family.
- **Accessibility** information for facilities, sites, and some trails in the park, audio-described exhibits, and alternative text for images.

Be prepared and download the app and content before you arrive. Cell service and Wi-Fi are limited in Yellowstone.



### NPS Yellowstone Geysers

Discover the natural wonder of the most famous geyser of all, Old Faithful, and other geysers. Geyser prediction updates are limited by cellular network availability.

#### Features



- Shows **predictions** for up to six Yellowstone geysers—including Old Faithful.
- **Learn** how geysers work and why some are predictable.
- **View** eruptions via live streaming webcam, where available.
- **Browse** galleries of past eruptions.



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## Avoid the crowds

### Tour early in the day

Visitors can avoid crowds by traveling early in the day. Park gates are open 24-hours. 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 helps to optimize your chances of observing animals during their active periods.

### 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

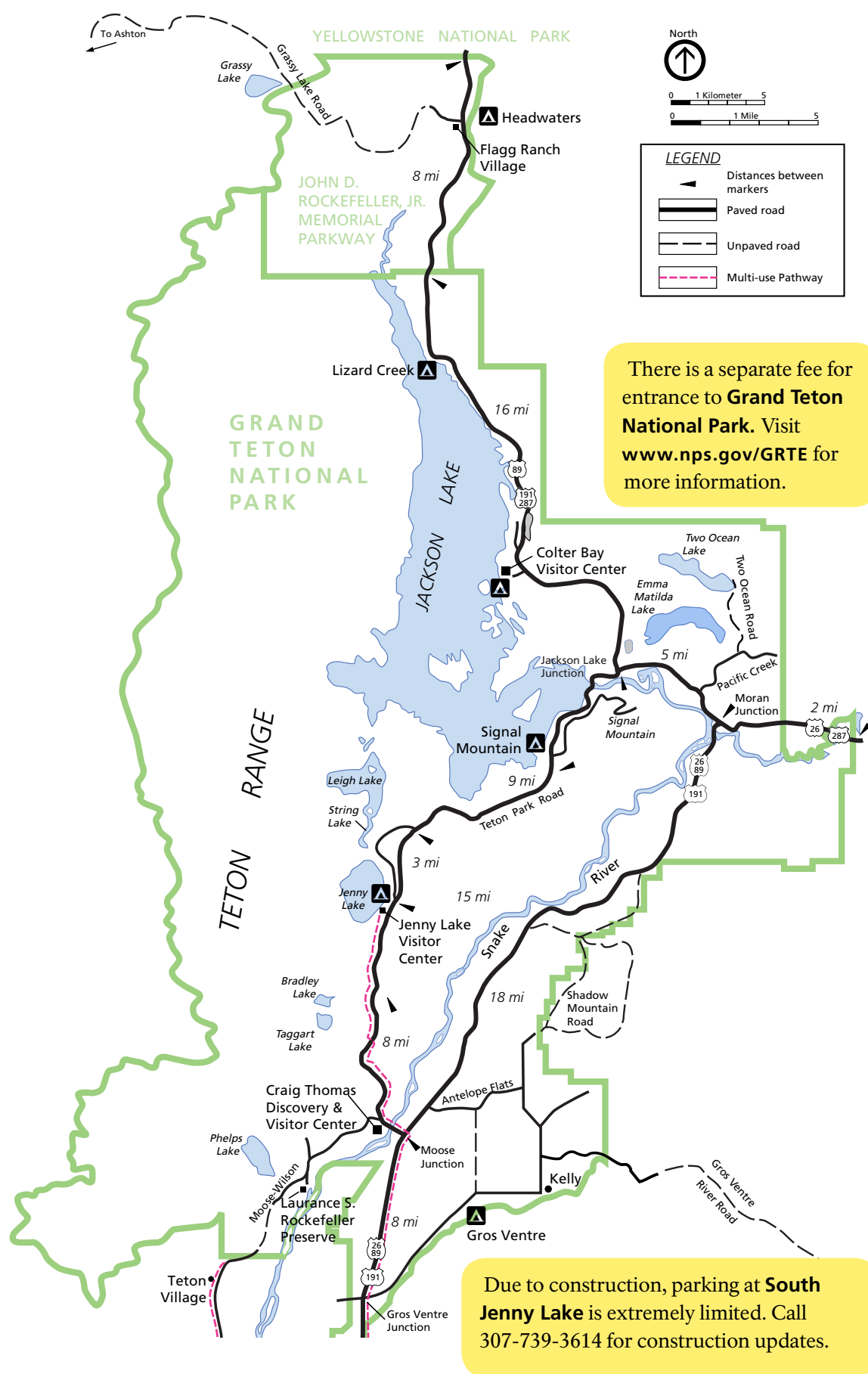
entire Yellowstone region offers an amazing variety of public lands for recreation and enjoyment.

### Visit during "shoulder seasons"

Peak season in Yellowstone is between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Over 90 percent of our visitors arrive in the park during this time. Maximum visitation is from mid-July to mid-August.

Weather in the "shoulder seasons" of April–May and October–November may be less predictable; but those months can be some of the best times to see the park's wildlife and hydrothermal features.





## More next door



Teton Range from Schwabachers Landing.

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

**Backcountry camping** requires a permit from the Craig Thomas or Colter Bay visitor centers, or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Walk-in permits are \$25, permits with a reservation are \$35. Reservations can be made on-line from early January through May 15.

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

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

## Visitor centers

**Colter Bay Visitor Center** (May 12 to October 9)

Information, exhibits, audiovisual programs, permits, and publication sales. 307-739-3594.

**Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center** (May 1 to Oct. 31)

Information, audiovisual programs, exhibits, permits, publication sales. 307-739-3399.

**Flagg Ranch Information Station** (June 5 to September 4)

307-543-2372.

**Jenny Lake Ranger Station** (June 3 to September 3)

Climbing information and permits. 307-739-3343.

**Jenny Lake Visitor Center** (May 19 to September 25)

Information, publications sales, 307-739-3392.

**Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center** (June 3 to

September 24) Sensory exhibits and orientation to an eight-mile trail network. 307-739-3654.

## Lodging

**Colter Bay Cabins** 800-628-9988

**Colter Bay RV Park** 800-628-9988

**Dornan's Spur Ranch Cabins** 307-733-2522

**Headwaters Lodge & Cabins at Flagg Ranch**  
307-543-2861, 800-443-2311

**Jackson Lake Lodge** 800-628-9988

**Jenny Lake Lodge** 307-733-4647; 800-628-9988

**Signal Mountain Lodge** 800-672-6012

## Campgrounds

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

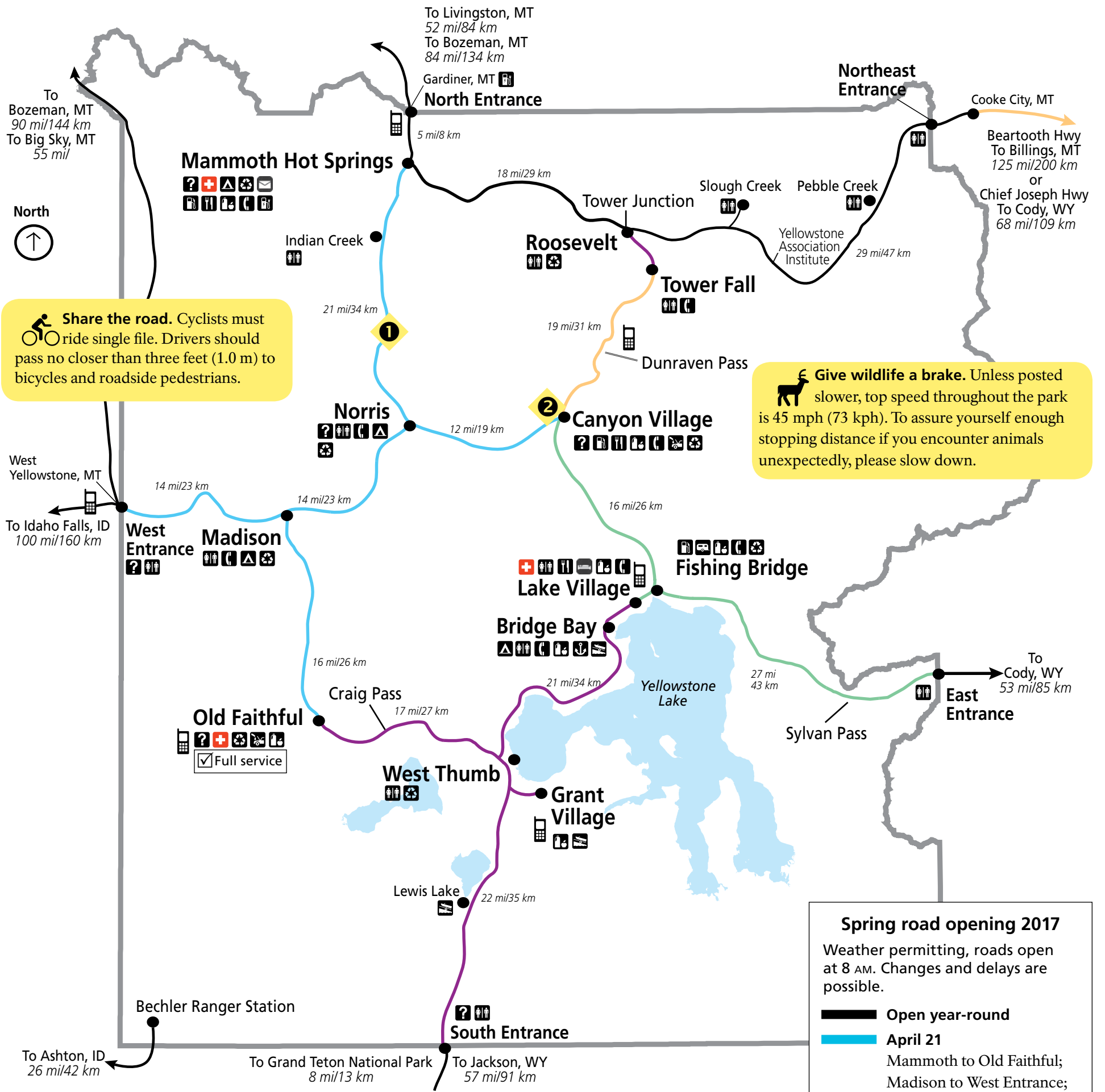
Jenny Lake is open to tents only. Other campgrounds accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles. The maximum stay is seven days at Jenny Lake, 14 days at other campgrounds, 30 days total per year.

There is a 30-foot restriction in effect at Signal Mountain and Lizard Creek. All of the park's campgrounds have modern comfort stations.

There are RV sites with full hookups at Colter Bay RV park and at Headwaters Campground and RV park. Hookups are also available at Gros Ventre, Colter Bay, and Signal Mountain campgrounds.

- **Colter Bay**, 335 sites, usually fills by evening
- **Gros Ventre**, 300 sites, usually last to fill
- **Headwaters**, 175 sites, usually fills by evening
- **Jenny Lake**, 49 sites, usually fills by 9 AM
- **Lizard Creek**, 60 sites, usually fills by evening
- **Signal Mountain**, 81 sites, usually fills by noon.





**Share the road.** Cyclists must ride single file. Drivers should pass no closer than three feet (1.0 m) to bicycles and roadside pedestrians.

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

**Construction delays and closures**

**1** **Norris to Golden Gate**  
Expect 30-minute delays.  
June 1–September 10:  
Night closure 10 PM to 7 AM.  
September 10–October 6:  
Road closed. Detour via  
Dunraven Pass.

**2** **Canyon Area Overlooks**  
Inspiration Point closed for the  
season.

- ☒ Full service = restrooms, food service, lodging, fuel
- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Clinic                                   | General store                       | Auto service   |
| Restrooms                                | Lodging                             | Horseback riding   |
| Visitor center<br>or information station | Camping                             | Marina   |
| Fuel                                     | RV camping<br>Hard-sided units only | Recycling  |
| Food service                             | Pay Phone                           | Cell phone tower<br>Check with your provider<br>for coverage |
| EV charging                              | Boat launch                         |  |

**Spring road opening 2017**  
Weather permitting, roads open  
at 8 AM. Changes and delays are  
possible.

**Open year-round**

**April 21**  
Mammoth to Old Faithful;  
Madison to West Entrance;  
Norris to Canyon.

**May 5**  
Canyon Junction to Lake;  
Lake to East Entrance  
(Sylvan Pass).

**May 12**  
Tower Junction to Tower  
Fall; Old Faithful to West  
Thumb (Craig Pass); Lake to  
South Entrance.

**May 26**  
Tower Fall to Canyon  
Junction (Dunraven Pass);  
Beartooth Highway.