

YELLOWSTONE Today



Official Newspaper of Yellowstone National Park

Winter 2002/2003

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NPS photo/B. Suderman

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Enjoy Yellowstone's Winter Wonderland Safely

Snow and cold combine with natural wonders to create an incomparable winter experience in Yellowstone. Prepare yourself well to enjoy your winter visit safely.

- ◆ Use extra care near canyons, waterfalls, hydrothermal areas, overlooks, and wildlife.
- ◆ Watch your children. Your hand and voice may be too far away once your child leaves your side.
- ◆ The only road open for year-round

automobile travel is the Gardiner, MT-Cooke City, MT road (North Entrance to 7 miles east of the Northeast Entrance). Snow tires or chains are always recommended and at times may be required.

- ◆ Snowmobiles and snowcoaches are permitted only on groomed roadways; sidehilling and off-road travel are illegal.
- ◆ Privately owned and operated snowmobiles must be registered according

to the laws of the operator's state of residence and have a muffler in good working order. (See page 6.)

- ◆ Operators must have a valid state motor vehicle driver's license.
- ◆ Before beginning your trip—whether on snowmobile, skis, or snowshoes—obtain an up-to-date road and weather report.

Additional tips for safe snowshoeing, skiing, and snowmobiling are on pages 4-6.

International Visitors

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

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

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

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

Park Information: 307-344-7381

Road Updates: 307-344-2117

TDD: 307-344-2386

www.nps.gov/yell

Emergency—Dial 911

CAUTION: SCALDING WATER

Beautiful but deadly: Yellowstone's hydrothermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. The crust surrounding them is thin and breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water. People have died in these pools.

- ◆ You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails. They exist to protect you and to preserve delicate formations.
- ◆ Keep your children close to you at all times; make sure they understand the danger.
- ◆ Pets are prohibited in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Swimming or bathing is prohibited in hydrothermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a hydrothermal spring or pool.
- ◆ Where swimming is allowed, swim at your own risk. Yellowstone's natural waters tend to be very hot or very cold—immersion in extreme temperature water can be fatal. Hot water can also harbor an organism known to cause a fatal meningitis infection. Exposing your head to hot water by any means—immersion, splashing, or touching your face—increases your risk of burns and infection. Obtain more information at any ranger station or visitor center.

STAY AWAY FROM WILDLIFE

Yellowstone is not a zoo and the animals are not tame. **Do not approach any wildlife.** View them from the safety of your vehicle. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

Keep your distance and stay safe—and you will be rewarded by seeing more of an animal's natural behavior and activity. This is especially important in winter: Cold and deep snow can make finding food difficult and any extra movement costs animals precious energy.

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

BISON are unpredictable and dangerous; they weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint 30 miles per hour (48 kph). Visitors are injured every year.

COYOTES quickly learn habits like roadside feeding. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans and can increase the risk of the coyote being poached or hit by a vehicle.

BEARS may be out in early and late winter. Be alert for tracks and sign; do not approach carcasses. If you observe a bear or bear sign, report it to a park ranger as soon as possible.

RAVENS have learned to unzip and unsnap packs of snowmobilers and other visitors. Do not allow these birds access to your food.

WILDLIFE HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY

- ◆ If you are snowmobiling, follow the guidelines on page 6.
- ◆ If you are skiing or snowshoeing, stop or detour around animals.

Watch for Ice on Roads and Trails

Only two roads in the park are plowed:

- 1 Between the North Entrance and Cooke City, Montana
- 2 From Mammoth Hot Springs to the parking area at the Upper Terraces

See map on back page.

- They are maintained only during daylight hours and may close during severe storms.
- Expect snowpack, ice, frost heaves, drifts.
- Snow tires or tire chains may be required and are always recommended.

- Speed limit for all vehicles, including snowmobiles, is **45 mph (73 kph)**, lower where posted.
- Do not stop on the road and block traffic when viewing wildlife or scenery. **Please use pullouts.**

Trails and overlooks may be snow-covered, icy, and dangerous.

Obey trail closures. Proceed cautiously at all times and watch your children.

Attention Anglers

The fishing season in Yellowstone National Park closed on the first Sunday in November and reopens the last Saturday in May.

Avalanches

Avalanches occur throughout Yellowstone on slopes 25° or steeper. Be especially alert for them if you are snowmobiling over Sylvan Pass or if you are skiing or snowshoeing in the backcountry. It is your responsibility to check conditions before beginning a trip, and to know the warning signs, safety rules, and how to respond should you or one of your party be caught in an avalanche. **See page 4 for more information.**

Backcountry Permits

Permits are required for **overnight backcountry use**. Obtain them in person up to 48 hours in advance from any ranger station. Rangers will provide information on weather, trails, snow conditions, and any special winter hazards. Backcountry winter campers must carry stoves and fuel for cooking and melting snow; no wood fires allowed.

High Altitude

Most of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow time to acclimate and drink plenty of liquids. Be aware of your physical limitations. Don't overexert; drink plenty of water to forestall the dehydrating effects of the park's dry climate. Stop and rest frequently.

Hypothermia and Frostbite

Know the warning signs of hypothermia and frostbite and treatment for both. They occur when you are exposed to cold temperatures, wind, and when you lack sufficient layers of clothing and appropriate gear.

Hypothermia is a rapid loss of body heat that can cause death if not treated. Early warning signs include shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Know these warning signs and how to treat them. Seek help as soon as you can.

Frostbite can permanently damage tissue and affect use of fingers, toes, nose, ears, or other extremities. Protect yourself with warm, layered clothing and frequent stops to warm up.

Lost & Found

Call 307-344-2109 to report or retrieve lost items.

Pets

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

Winter Camping

Winter car-camping is available only at Mammoth Campground (accessible via the North Entrance). Heated restrooms and water are available; wood fires allowed. No overnight camping or stopping allowed outside of this designated campground. Primitive winter camping is available at Old Faithful on a limited basis and at backcountry sites. No facilities. Permit required.

Weapons

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

AVOID These Illegal Situations

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| • speeding (radar enforced) | • violating camping regulations & rules | natural (flowers, antlers, etc.) or cultural (artifacts) features | • calling in elk by imitating their calls or using buglers |
| • driving while intoxicated (open container law enforced) | • having pets off leash or on trails and boardwalks | • violating fishing regulations | • imitating wolf howls |
| • leaving detachable side mirrors attached when not pulling trailers | • littering | • feeding or approaching wildlife | <i>Law enforcement rangers strictly enforce all park regulations to protect you and the park.</i> |
| • traveling off-road by vehicle or bicycle | • swimming in hydrothermal pools | • spotlighting elk, deer, or other wildlife (viewing animals with artificial light) | |
| • improperly storing food | • traveling off boardwalks in hydrothermal areas | | |
| | • removing or possessing | | |

Know These Numbers

25

= the number of **YARDS** you must stay away from all wildlife—except . . .

100

= the number of **YARDS** you must stay away from a bear

45

= the **speed limit** in the park unless otherwise posted

911

= the number to call in an **emergency**

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NPS photo/Mark Marschall

Facts & Tips

- ◆ Area: approximately 2.2 million acres or 3,472 square miles in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho
- ◆ Elevations: 5,300 ft (1,608 m) at the North Entrance to almost 11,358 feet (3,640 m) at Eagle Peak on the east boundary; most roads lie at 7,500–8,000 feet (2,275–2,427 m)
- ◆ Speed limit: 45 mph (73 kph) or lower where posted
- ◆ Yellowstone Lake: about 110 miles (170 km) of shoreline and approximately 136 square miles (354 sq km) of surface area
- ◆ Hydrothermal features: About 10,000 hydrothermal features are known, including more than 300 geysers
- ◆ Winter temperatures often hover near zero throughout the day, occasionally reaching highs in the 20s. Subzero nighttime lows are common.
- ◆ The lowest recorded temperature is -66°F at the West Yellowstone station on February 9, 1933.
- ◆ For most of the park, annual snowfall averages close to 150 inches. At higher elevations, amounts are normally well over 200 inches annually, and, in some locations, over 400 inches. In contrast, the Lamar Valley often has less than 24 inches on the ground.
- ◆ As many as 2,000 snow machines, including track-conversion vehicles and snowcoaches, operate on a busy day in the park.
- ◆ General park information: 307-344-7381 (long distance from some park locations)
- ◆ Lodging and services: 307-344-7311 (long distance from some park locations)
- ◆ Yellowstone National Park Official Web Site: www.nps.gov/yell

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NPS photo

Geysers & Hot Springs

An unparalleled array of hydrothermal phenomena—geysers, hot springs, mudpots, and steam vents—are evidence of a volcanic past and the active earth beneath our feet. Many of the most famous features can be found between Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful. Hydrothermal areas include Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, Midway Geyser Basin, and the Old Faithful area. West Thumb Geyser Basin is 17 miles east of Old Faithful; Mud Volcano is north of Yellowstone Lake.

In winter, the clash of extreme heat and cold creates extraordinary beauty—ghost trees, ice cones, eruptions seemingly amplified in the frigid air to several times their summer height. Warm ground, steam, and hot water run-off create microclimates; in places, plants grow in summer-like lushness. Animals are drawn to hydrothermal areas because food is easier to find.

You may be surprised to see puffs of steam at random locations. Countless tiny hydrothermal features elude detection by summer visitors, but winter reveals and highlights their presence. Other clues to hydrothermal influence include patches of bare ground, ice-free streams or ponds, and frozen spray where no waterfall exists.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

The Yellowstone River has carved a great canyon through rocks altered by hydrothermal activity. Snow clings to canyon walls in patterns determined by pinnacles, ridges, gullies, and slopes. Deep in the canyon, steam plumes mark locations of hot springs, geysers, and fumaroles. Massive sheets of ice muffle the roar of the Upper and Lower Falls. At the base of the Lower Falls, spray freezes and grows into an ice cone that sometimes reaches half the height of the falls. Overlooks along the North and South Rims offer views of different portions of the canyon and of the Upper and Lower Falls.

Lake Area

Yellowstone Lake is North America's largest high-altitude lake. During winter, its 136 square miles (354 sq km) of surface freeze solid except for isolated spots of hydrothermal activity. Freeze-up is a gradual process in such a large body of water. Water temperature gradually drops, cold water sinks as warm water rises, and the process continues until the water is uniformly cold enough to freeze.

Although shallow lagoons or bays may freeze earlier, widespread freeze-up takes place after a subzero night. On average, the lake is ice-locked by December 25. Between freeze-up and the accumulation of insulating snow, solar radiation causes heating and expansion of the vast sheet. The lake “sings” as ice creaks, pops, and groans.

This vast body of water is a complex system influencing climate, plants, and animals over a far greater area than its shoreline. Set against the Absaroka Mountains, it defines the essence of winter—a wilderness snowscape, harshly beautiful.

Viewing Wildlife

Yellowstone is home to a variety and abundance of wildlife unparalleled in the lower 48 states. The numbers and variety of animals you see are largely a matter of luck and coincidence. As you travel snow-covered roads by snowmobile or snowcoach, look for birds along the waterways, elk and bison in the hydrothermal areas, and coyotes almost anywhere. Along the road between Gardiner and Cooke City, Montana, you may see large numbers of elk and bison. This is also the area where wolves are seen most frequently. See page 7 and the insert “Yellowstone Tracker” for more information about wildlife in winter and how to view them.

Often, a visit is most remembered and enjoyed for the discoveries made on your own. Patience and alertness may bring you moments of extraordinary beauty or reveal the story of a jumble of tracks in the snow. May your visit be safe, rewarding, and special.



YOUR FEE DOLLARS AT WORK

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

Entrance and campground fees are dedicated to projects that increase the quality of the visitor experience and enhance the protection of park resources. Projects underway include a major renovation of Canyon Visitor Center including the development of new geology exhibits, campground and amphitheater upgrades, construction of a new accessible restroom at Mammoth Hot Springs, preservation of rare documents, and studies on bison.

Accessibility Guide Available

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

For more information:
Park Accessibility Coordinator
P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-2017
TDD only (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) 307-344-2386
www.nps.gov/yell

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NPS photo/Jim Peaco

Please leave the ski tracks for the skiers; don't walk or snowshoe in them.

For Skiers and Snowshoers

- ◆ Evaluate your party's capabilities. Plan your outing so that everyone will enjoy it.
- ◆ Know your equipment's capabilities and weaknesses and be prepared to repair it.
- ◆ Never go close to geysers, hot springs, or mudpots. You may fall through overhanging snow ledges or thin crust. Do not leave designated trails in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Beware of icy conditions on downhill grades leading into hydrothermal areas. Side-step or walk down the hill rather than risk skiing out of control into a boiling pool.
- ◆ When crossing frozen lakes, use extreme caution and check ice thickness by prodding with a ski pole. Ice, snow covered or not, may be thin, especially near inlets, outlets, and waters warmed by hydrothermal activity. Crossing rivers may be dangerous; some have bridges and some do not. Ask a ranger about local crossings.
- ◆ Do not approach wildlife. Wild animals are unpredictable; if they charge, you can't outrun them in deep snow. If they run, you are forcing them to use energy they need to survive.
- ◆ When passing through areas of dead trees (snags), stay on established trails and be alert. Snags can fall with little warning.
- ◆ Exertion in dry mountain air can dehydrate you. Drink two quarts of water a day. Carry gear to melt water from snow or dip it out of a stream from a safe distance with a ski pole. Boil water from lakes or streams to reduce the chance of infection from water-borne diseases.
- ◆ Learn as much as you can about winter survival. Talk with park rangers before you leave on any trip. Many good books are also available on this topic.
- ◆ Follow basic ski etiquette: skiers going uphill yield to those going downhill.
- ◆ Let someone know where you are going.
- ◆ On groomed roads used by snowmobiles, keep to the right.
- ◆ Orange trail markers attached to trees may be difficult to find in winter.
- ◆ If you venture into the backcountry, carry a USGS topographic map and a compass—and know how to use them.
- ◆ Even on a well-marked trail, you can become lost easily in a whiteout or blizzard.
- ◆ Attempt off-trail travel only if you are completely familiar with the specific area where you will be skiing.
- ◆ Obtain specific information on conditions at the area's ranger station, backcountry office, warming hut, or visitor center.
- ◆ Most of the park is above 7,000 feet. If you are coming from lower elevations, acclimate yourself and test your capabilities by taking short day trips before considering longer excursions.

Weather

Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable and changes suddenly. Obtain current weather conditions and forecasts at visitor centers or ranger stations. Be prepared for a range of conditions, whether you are out for several hours or overnight. Know the locations of warming huts and phones (map on the back page). Plan your trip and follow your plan.

Avalanches

- ◆ Avalanche hazard can be high on roads between the East Entrance and Fishing Bridge Junction, on Dunraven Pass, on trails in the Cooke City vicinity, and in many areas of the backcountry. Learn about avalanche mechanics, safe travel methods, and rescue procedures *before* going into the backcountry.
- ◆ Avalanches most commonly occur on hillsides or in canyons with slopes of 30–45°, but can happen on any slope.
- ◆ When travelling through such areas, cross the slope one at a time while others watch.
- ◆ Avalanches are more likely to occur during or after heavy fresh snowfall, high winds, or extreme temperature changes.
- ◆ Call the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, 406-587-6981, for recorded avalanche advisories for Bozeman, Livingston, West Yellowstone, and Gardiner; or check with a local ranger for a current forecast.

For Snowmobilers

- ◆ Travel in groups; emergencies are more easily handled than if you are alone.
- ◆ Dress for extreme cold. Essential items: helmet, face mask, heavily insulated gloves or mittens, felt-lined boots, and a heavily insulated snowmobile suit. Avoid tight-fitting garments; they restrict circulation and increase the possibility of frostbite.
- ◆ Carry extra food for 12 hours beyond your planned trip, extra fuel, drive belt, spark plugs and appropriate tools, plus extra parts that frequently break down or wear out. Always include a flashlight, matches and a first aid kit. Repair services are not available in the park except for minor repairs and parts at Old Faithful.
- ◆ Know the locations of warming huts, snowmobile gas, visitor centers, and public phones (see the back page of this newspaper).
- ◆ Before starting your trip, check on road and weather conditions. Blowing and drifting snow can be especially hazardous in Hayden Valley (between Canyon and Fishing Bridge junctions) and on Swan Lake Flats (approximately 4 mi [6.4 km] south of Mammoth Hot Springs).
- ◆ Avalanches may occur on steep hills or in canyons. When travelling through such areas, do not bunch up—spread out. Avalanches are more likely to occur during or after heavy fresh snowfall, high winds, or extreme temperature changes.
- ◆ Hazardous conditions may temporarily close Sylvan Pass (between the East Entrance and Fishing Bridge Junction).
- ◆ The road from Tower Junction to the Washburn Hot Springs Overlook, 4 miles (6.4 km) north of Canyon Junction, is closed to snowmobiling due to avalanche danger.

Wild Animals Have the Right of Way!

- ◆ If bison or other wildlife are on the road, stop at least 25 yards away and/or pull your machine as far as possible to the opposite side of the road; give them a chance to move off the road.
- ◆ Do not make sudden or erratic movements; use groomed pullouts where possible.
- ◆ Do not chase animals or cause them to stampede.
- ◆ If the animal appears agitated, do not attempt to pass as any advance may cause the animal to charge.
- ◆ If animals run toward you and you can confidently turn around, do so, moving to a safe place to reassess the situation.
- ◆ If they walk or run toward you and you cannot turn around, get off your machine and stand to the side of it, keeping the machine between you and the animals.
- ◆ If they are standing calmly, inch toward them and assess their behavior. If they remain calm, pass on the opposite side of the road at a moderate speed.

There is no guarantee of your safety.

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NPS photo/Hirschmann

Winter Gear Guide

- ◆ Before you rent or borrow equipment, check for fit and suitability for wilderness use. Choose skis and boots made for touring or mountaineering. Narrow racing skis may not give you enough surface area to break trail and low shoes may not give you enough ankle support.
- ◆ Winter temperatures are severe in Yellowstone, but you can be comfortable and safe if you dress properly. Appropriate clothes prevent chilling and overheating.
- ◆ Prepare for changing conditions by wearing clothes in several adjustable layers:
windproof, hooded outer layer
wool or other insulated garments underneath
wool or synthetic trousers
long underwear
wind or rainpants for extra warmth on windy days
wool socks
gaiters or overboots
gloves or wool mittens with shells
- ◆ Do not wear cotton clothes of any kind, including jeans, sweatshirts, underwear, socks. They retain moisture and put you at risk for hypothermia.
- ◆ Protect yourself from the sun:
wear dark sunglasses on sunny days
apply sunscreen lotion to avoid sunburn
- ◆ As you plan your trip, allow for limited daylight, changing snow conditions, temperature extremes, and the number of people in the group and their experience and physical condition.
- ◆ On day trips, consider taking some or all of these items to increase your safety:
extra clothing
water & food
compass
matches or lighter
map
ski repair kit
- ◆ If you are planning an overnight ski trip, carry all of the above, plus:
backcountry permit
backpack
closed-cell sleeping pad
easily-prepared food
first-aid kit
knife
probe pole
repair parts and tools
sleeping bag
shovel
small tarp
stove and pots
tent or bivouac bag
transceiver

Yellowstone's 2.2 million acres provide miles of trails for the adventurous skier and snowshoer. Whether you are on a groomed trail in the front country or venturing into the backcountry, remember that you are traveling in wilderness with all its dangers: unpredictable wildlife, changing weather conditions, remote hydrothermal areas, deep snow, open streams, and avalanches. You have chosen to explore and experience the land on its own terms, but there is no guarantee of your safety. Be prepared for any situation. Carefully read the safety information on the previous page, plus all backcountry guidelines/regulations, and know the limits of your ability.

Trails

Old Faithful Lone Star Geyser Trail

This moderate 9-mile trail begins at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and takes you to Kepler Cascades. From there, you follow an unplowed service road alongside the Firehole River to Lone Star Geyser. The geyser erupts about every three hours from a 12-foot high sinter cone. Beginning skiers should return the same way; more advanced skiers might like to return via the Howard Eaton Trail, which is steep and requires caution.

Fairy Falls Trail
Catch a snowcoach shuttle at Old Faithful Snow Lodge to the southern end of the Fairy Falls trailhead at the Steel Bridge. From here you can ski to one of the most spectacular ice-encrusted falls in the park. You will be skiing through areas of burned forest so be alert for falling trees. You can ski back to Old Faithful by following the trail next to

You have a choice of ski trails throughout the park—a few are described here. Maps and trail brochures are available for trails in the Mammoth, Tower, Northeast, Canyon, Old Faithful, and West Yellowstone/Gallatin areas. These trails range from easy to difficult.

the snow vehicle road until you reach the Biscuit Basin Trail, which takes you through the Upper Geyser Basin past Morning Glory Pool and Geyser Hill. The entire trip is about 8 easy miles.

Northern Region
Skiing opportunities abound along the plowed road between Mammoth and the Northeast Entrance. See map below.

Upper Terrace Trail
In winter, Upper Terrace Drive becomes a groomed 1.5 mile ski trail. You'll have fantastic views of the steaming lower terraces and historic Fort Yellowstone. This is a hydrothermal area; please stay on the trail.

Bunsen Peak Trail
This 6-mile trail follows the old Bunsen Peak road; in places it is steep and has sharp turns. Catch the concessioner-operated ski shuttle from Mammoth to the trail's upper end, south

of Rustic Falls. Along the trail, you will have views of the Gallatin Mountains and the Gardner River Canyon. The trail ends in the Mammoth maintenance area.

Blacktail Plateau Trail
This trail begins 7.5 miles east of Mammoth and follows an unplowed 8-mile road. Enjoy vistas of meadows surrounded by mountain peaks, and look for elk, deer, coyotes, and bison scattered throughout their winter range.

Tower Fall Trail
This trail begins at Tower Junction and follows the unplowed Tower-Canyon road for 2.5 miles past the Calcite Springs Overlook to Tower Fall. You'll have views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and you might see bison, bighorn sheep, or bald eagles. Continue on the 5.5 mile Chittenden Loop Trail or return to Tower Junction.

Barronette Trail
This 3.5-mile trail follows

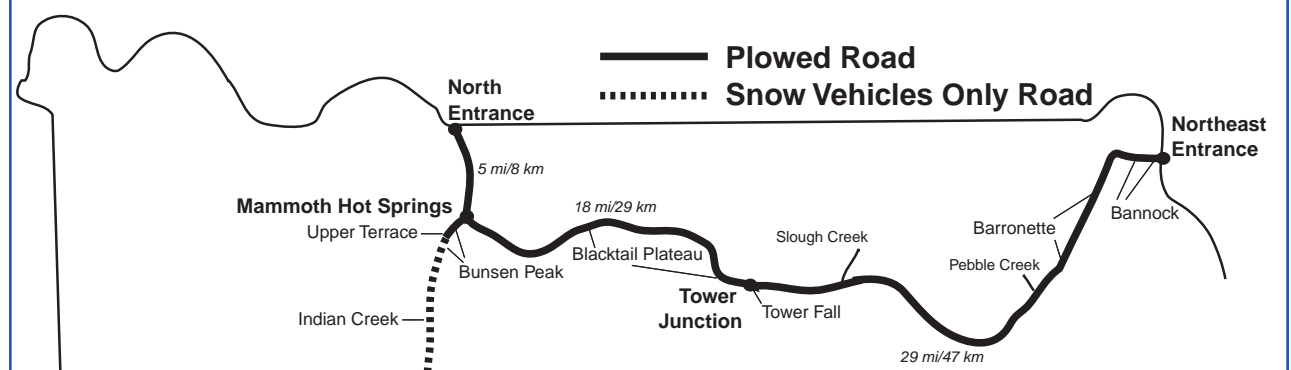
Soda Butte Creek along an abandoned roadway that parallels the Northeast Entrance Road at the base of Barronette Peak. It travels through a forest and offers spectacular scenery and consistent snow conditions.

West Yellowstone Riverside Trail

This trail begins on Boundary Street and heads one mile through forest to the Upriver and Downriver loops. Both loops provide scenic views of the Gallatin Range and Madison River. Total distance varies from 2.5 miles to 4.5 miles, depending on your route.

For more details about these and other ski trails, check at the visitor centers at Mammoth or Old Faithful or at the Public Lands Desk, West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce.

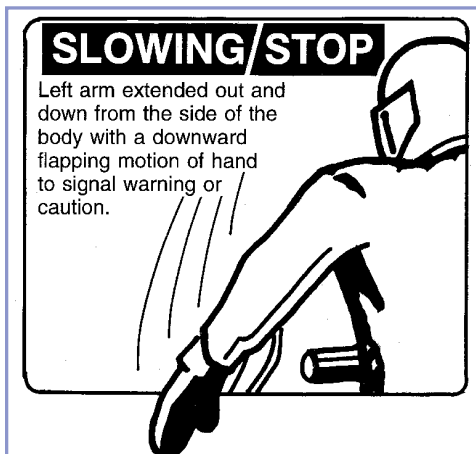
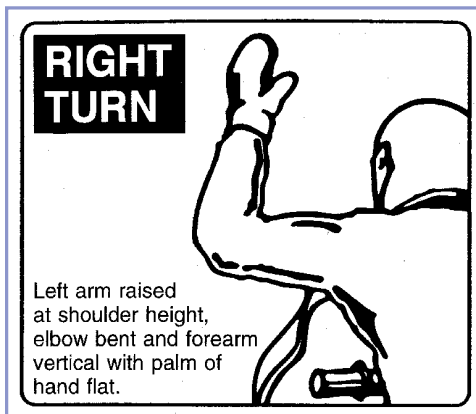
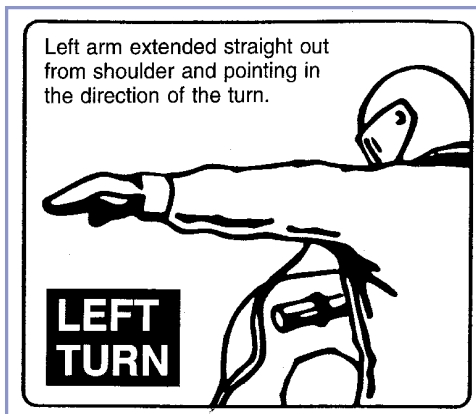
Ski Trails In Northern Yellowstone



- ◆ A permit is required for all overnight trips in the Yellowstone backcountry. Inquire about backcountry permits at visitor centers or ranger stations.
- ◆ Pack it in—Pack it out: No matter what trail you are on or its length, you must pack out all refuse.

Snowmobilers: Read This Page

Winter 2002/2003



Artwork courtesy of Xanterra Parks & Resorts

New regulations take effect this winter.

You are responsible for knowing all the rules and regulations.

- ◆ Snowmobile operators must have a valid state motor vehicle driver's license in possession. Persons with a learner's permit may operate a snowmobile when supervised one-to-one within line of sight (but no more than 100 yds.) by a licensed person 21 years old or older.
- ◆ Roads are open **ONLY** between 7 AM and 9 PM. Snowmobiles and snowcoaches are not allowed to operate in the park between 9 PM and 7 AM.
- ◆ Snowmobilers entering from the West Entrance must purchase passes *before* arriving at the gate at the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, Public Lands Desk (open daily, 7 AM–6 PM) or at some hotels and snowmobile rental agencies.
- ◆ Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- ◆ Allow enough distance between snowmobiles when traveling.
- ◆ Pass only when safe.
- ◆ If you turn around, do so within the road width.
- ◆ Drive on the right side of the road even if the road is rough.
- ◆ Drive in single file.
- ◆ Wildlife have the right of way.
- ◆ Do not idle your machine more than 10 minutes.
- ◆ When stopping, pull to the far right and park in single file.
- ◆ Stay on designated roads. Sidehilling, bermriding, or any off-road travel is prohibited and carries a fine of up to \$5,000.
- ◆ Report accidents to a ranger.
- ◆ Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is illegal. Possession of open alcoholic beverage containers, including bota bags, is illegal.
- ◆ Snowmobiles must be registered according to applicable state law.
- ◆ Lights and brakes must be in good working condition.
- ◆ Snowmobile exhaust and muffler systems must be in good working order. The maximum noise allowed is 78 decibels when measured during full acceleration at a distance of 50 feet. Most stock exhaust systems meet this standard; after-market (piped) exhaust systems often do not. Snowmobiles exceeding the decibel standard are denied entry to the park.



ALL ROADS CLOSE AT NIGHT

No snowmobiles or snowcoaches are allowed on park roads between 9 PM and 7 AM.

Plan accordingly.



Snowmobiles are **NOT** allowed on these side roads:

Canyon Junction to Washburn Hot Springs
Firehole Canyon Drive
Fountain Flat Road
Lake Butte Overlook Drive
North Canyon Rim Drive
Riverside Drive
Virginia Cascades Drive

Snowcoaches ONLY are allowed on these side roads.

- ◆ Use hand signals.
- ◆ Obey the speed limit: 45 mph or less, as posted.
- ◆ Always give animals the right of way.

Know These Numbers

35 mph

is the **speed limit** between the West Entrance and Madison, and between Madison and Old Faithful.

45 mph

or lower

is the **speed limit** in the park except as noted at left or otherwise posted.

911

= the number to call in an **emergency**

Save On Park Entrance Fees

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*The
National
Parks Pass*

provides a way to save money when visiting national parks. For one annual fee of \$50, you can enter all National Park System areas. You receive a great value and you also support your favorite national parks. A full 70% of the proceeds from the sales of passes at Yellowstone will

go directly to projects that help visitors experience the area. The remaining proceeds go to a national fund that supports projects at any of the national parks in the system. To obtain your pass, stop by one of Yellowstone's entrance stations, or purchase the pass online at www.nationalparks.org or call toll-free: 1-888-GO-PARKS (1-888-467-2757). For an additional \$15, you can upgrade your National Park Pass to a Golden Eagle Pass, which provides admission to all national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other federal fee areas. (Neither pass is good for user or parking fees, such as at Mount Rushmore.)

Private, noncommercial automobile	\$20 (7 days, both Yellowstone and Grand Teton)
Individual snowmobile, motorcycle	\$15 (7 days, both parks)
Single entry (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$10 (7 days, both parks)
Annual Pass, both parks	\$40 (valid one year from date of purchase)
National Parks Pass	\$50 (valid one year from date of purchase for entrance fees at National Park Service areas)
Golden Eagle Pass	\$65 (valid one year from date of purchase at most fee collection areas)
Golden Age Pass	\$10 (one-time fee for lifetime pass—available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. 62 years of age and older)
Golden Access Pass	Free (available to those citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled)
Remember to keep your admission receipt in order to re-enter the park.	

Winter Wonderland

7

Winter 2002/2003

Hydrothermal Areas Below Zero

- ◆ thick steam makes geyser eruptions look larger than in summer
- ◆ steam also forms “ghost trees” (see photo at right)
- ◆ runoff channels cool quickly—which means less habitat for some thermophiles (heat-loving organisms)
- ◆ if thermophile mats are dark green, the previous few days have been cloudy
- ◆ if thermophile mats are bright green, the previous few days have been sunny
- ◆ ephydrid flies live year-round in the hot water

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NPS photo/Frank Balthis

- ◆ plants can grow in warm, wet hydrothermal areas through the winter
- ◆ plants in hydrothermal areas provide food for animals of all sizes—including bison, elk, and Canada geese
- ◆ underwater hydrothermal features keep holes open in the ice on Yellowstone Lake
- ◆ through these holes, otters enter and exit the lake as they hunt for fish
- ◆ dippers—dark birds the size of robins—search for aquatic insects year-round in rivers free of ice

Wildlife

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NPS photo/Peaco

Wildlife in Yellowstone may appear tolerant of humans, but this is a dangerous illusion. Animals that have become habituated—that is, used to people—are still wild and unpredictable.

Habituated wildlife can quickly become conditioned to human foods. Swans, coyotes, bighorn sheep, bears, ravens, and other species have all demonstrated begging behavior in Yellowstone. This seemingly harmless activity is dangerous for both you and the animals. When they come to the roadside to obtain food, they are often hit by vehi-

cles or become exhausted chasing traffic.

Human foods in an animal’s diet may result in tooth decay, ulcers, digestive problems, or failure to accumulate fat reserves for the winter. Beggar birds and other wildlife may become aggressive and have occasionally injured park visitors.

The park is not a zoo. Animals live and die based on their species’ adaptations and their individual ability to survive in this environment. And all animals in the park are wild and potentially dangerous.

- ◆ Respect wildlife—never approach too closely and be alert for changes in their behavior.
- ◆ Never feed wild animals—including ravens.
- ◆ Follow the law: Stay at least 100 yards away from bears and 25 yards away from all other animals.

Be a Wise Wildlife Watcher

Remember that you are a guest in the home of wildlife.

- ◆ Stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals.
- ◆ Stop in a pullout instead of the middle of the road.
- ◆ Turn off your engine.
- ◆ Always talk quietly.
- ◆ To find out what people are observing, get out of your car or off your snowmobile, approach them, and speak quietly. Never call or shout from your vehicle.

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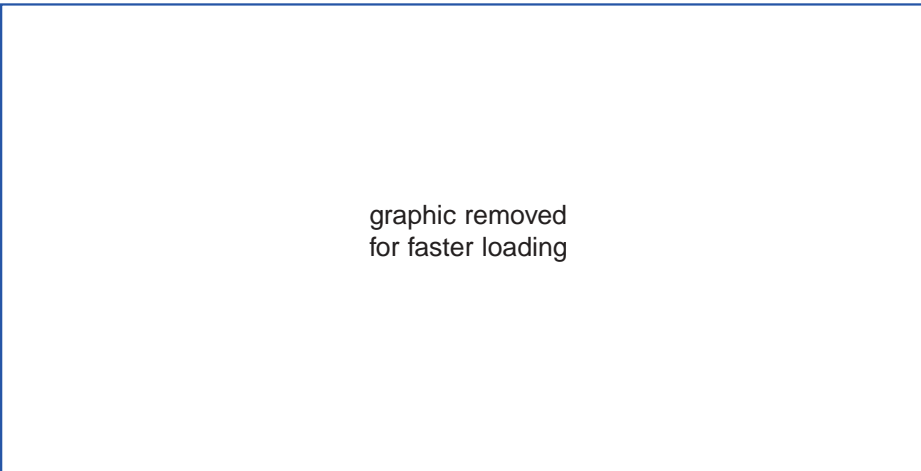
NPS photo/Peaco

Winter is the season of greatest stress to all living things. Even animals in good condition cannot endure repeated stress without depleting energy reserves. Now more than ever, you must avoid unnecessarily disturbing wildlife. Never approach animals closely—you may cause an animal to move, and exertion through deep snow consumes great quantities of energy.

Progress On the Winter Use Plan

While you enjoy winter in Yellowstone, we would like you to think about a vexing dilemma we all face. Human use of the park has skyrocketed in the past 20 years, and we have many effects on the habitat and wildlife that we only now are beginning to understand. As visitation grows, each person is less assured of the quality experience for which Yellowstone is so famous.

We have been preparing a new winter use plan since late 1997. It was approved in 2000, but is undergoing additional review. A final plan is expected in 2003. We encourage you to stay informed about the progress of this plan.



NPS photo/Peaco

Plan's Purpose

Winter recreation within Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway should complement the unique aspects of each landscape within the ecosystem. The range of winter experiences and settings should not impact sensitive natural resources, wildlife, cultural areas, or the experiences of other park visitors.

Winter Use Plan EIS

In May 1997, the Fund for Animals sued the NPS over winter use and its potential effects on wildlife. The NPS settled the lawsuit and agreed to prepare a new

winter use plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). NPS involved 3 states, 5 counties, and the U.S. Forest Service as cooperating agencies for this planning effort.

The EIS addressed visitor access, affordability, emissions, sound, socioeconomic impacts and wildlife concerns. It received 59,000 public comments. In November 2000, NPS signed the Record of Decision (ROD) to eliminate both snowmobile and snowplane use from the parks by the winter of 2003–2004. Under this decision, access to the parks would be provided by NPS-managed,

mass-transit snowcoaches. Regulations implementing this decision were completed in January 2001.

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

On December 6, 2000, the Secretary of the Interior, et al., were named as defendants in a lawsuit brought by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, et al. A settlement agreement was reached on June 29, 2001. The Department of Interior directed the National Park Service to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). An SEIS was deemed necessary

to consider new information and to seek additional public comment.

Cooperating agencies were the same as for the EIS, with the addition of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additional information from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association is being considered, plus any other new or updated information not available earlier. More than 350,000 additional public comment letters and e-mails were received and considered on the draft SEIS.

The existing rule will remain in effect during the SEIS process. Parallel to the

SEIS process, the Department of Interior has published a rule to delay the existing rule by one year. The delay rule was published on November 18, 2002 and goes into effect on December 18, 2002.

Status of the SEIS

- Release the Final SEIS mid February 2003.
- Sign the Record of Decision in mid March 2003.
- Begin implementing winter use plan in 2003.

This Winter

- No limits on snowmobile numbers this season.
- Roads closed to snowmobiles and snowcoaches

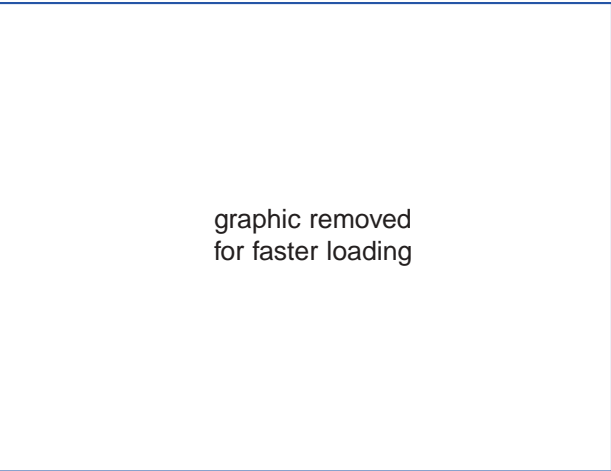
from 9 PM to 7 AM.

- Some side roads open only to snowcoaches. (See page 6.)

For Updates

- Ask at any visitor center or warming hut.
- Check this website: www.nps.gov/yell/technical/planning/winteruse/plan/index.htm
- Call Yellowstone's Planning Office at 307-344-2021.
- Write to Winter Use Planning, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Bison Management In the Yellowstone Area



NPS photo/Peaco

Yellowstone's bison are wild and they do not recognize political boundaries. However, a group of cooperating agencies have agreed to more intensively manage bison that leave the park because some bison carry the disease brucellosis. These agencies are committed to reducing the possibility of bison transmitting the disease to domestic livestock.

A bison management plan, agreed to by federal and state agencies, has been in effect since December 2000. The plan is founded on the principle of adaptive management and provides the agencies opportunity to gain knowledge and experience before proceeding to the successive steps. The biggest challenge is learning if bison and cattle can be separated successfully outside the park. To meet this challenge, the plan calls for phasing in greater tolerance of bison during winter in special management areas outside Yellowstone National Park. The adaptive management principle allows refinement of the plan as managers and scientists learn more about brucellosis, bison, cattle, and their management.

The Park's Objectives

- ◆ Maintain a wild, free-ranging population of bison plus its genetic integrity and its ecological function in the Yellowstone area (providing food for predators and scavengers, grazing on Yellowstone's grasslands).
- ◆ Address the risk of brucellosis transmission to protect the economic interest and viability of Montana's livestock industry.

Plan Highlights

- ◆ Establish special management areas outside the park where bison will be allowed during winter when cattle are not present.
- ◆ Vaccinate bison when a safe and effective vaccine is available.
- ◆ Vaccinate and monitor cattle in specific areas near Yellowstone National Park.
- ◆ Haze bison onto appropriate public lands during winter or back into the park in the spring to keep bison separated from cattle.
- ◆ Adapt the plan as more knowledge and experience is acquired about the management of brucellosis, bison, and cattle.

You can view the federal Record of Decision at www.planning.nps.gov/document/yellbisonrod.pdf or you can request a copy of the plan by calling the park at 307-344-2207.

Winter 2002/2003

Yellowstone National Park’s quietest time arrives after the winter season ends and as early spring begins. During this special time, visitors can see things that you don’t see in other seasons and can do things you can’t do any other time.

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NPS photo/Peaco

Above: People bring their binoculars and spotting scopes to the Lamar Valley to search for wolves and bears.

Right: You’ll need a sharp eye—not a spotting scope—to see the first flowers of spring, such as these glacier lilies.

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NPS photo/Jones & Austin

- ◆ Look for bears—both black and grizzly—newly emerged from their dens. They will be searching for food, such as the carcasses of animals that did not survive winter.
- ◆ You may see adult wolves busy hunting for food to carry back to the den where pups wait.
- ◆ Look for newborn bison calves—their orange coats are bright against the landscape.
- ◆ After roads are plowed, they open for bicycling and walking. It’s just you and park administrative vehicles. Check at visitor centers for dates when roads open for bicycling and walking.
- ◆ Enjoy a spring snowshoe or ski near Cooke City and in the Canyon Area.
- ◆ Visit the mudpots at Mud Volcano, West Thumb, and Fountain Paint Pot. Melting snow makes these features wetter and noisier than in summer or fall.
- ◆ Begin your hiking season early by exploring the trails near Mammoth; they usually dry earlier than others.
- ◆ Look for glacier lilies on snow-free slopes. You may even find them blooming among the melting snow.
- ◆ Look for migrating waterfowl on open water. Some are pausing on their trip north; others will be nesting here.

As always, though, be careful

- ◆ Observe all wildlife from a safe distance (100 yards from bears; 25 yards from all other animals).
- ◆ Check at a visitor center or with a park ranger about current conditions of trails, boardwalks, and roads.
- ◆ Also check on avalanche hazards, which can be extreme in spring.
- ◆ Watch the weather before you explore Yellowstone’s wild wonders. Carry winter gear and rain gear, and be ready for falling temperatures, strong winds, snow, rain, and even lightning.

What’s Open In Early Spring?

Services available

Camping: Mammoth Campground, open all year
Clinic: Mammoth Clinic, open weekdays 8:30 AM–1 PM and 2–5 PM; closed Wednesday afternoons
Lodging: Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge open May 2; Old Faithful Inn opens May 9; Lake Yellowstone Hotel opens May 16. Other facilities follow within a few weeks.
Store/Food: Mammoth General Store, open year-round
Visitor Center: Albright Visitor Center open daily, 9 AM–5 PM.

Spring Road Openings—Weather Permitting

April 18	Mammoth to Old Faithful; Madison Junction to West Entrance
April 25	Norris Junction to Canyon
May 2	Canyon to Lake, Lake to East Entrance, Tower to Tower Fall
May 9	Lake to South Entrance, West Thumb to Old Faithful
May 23	Beartooth Highway

Closed for construction: Dunraven Pass, Chittenden Road south to Canyon.

Yellowstone
Credit Card Will
Benefit the Park

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The Yellowstone Park Foundation and Elan Financial Services have created the new Yellowstone Visa® credit card. The card is giving individuals who love Yellowstone the opportunity to help protect and preserve the park. ◆ Elan will donate a portion of every purchase made with the Yellowstone Visa card to the Yellowstone Park Foundation at no additional cost to the cardholder. The money raised from the credit card program will help fund projects in Yellowstone that are beyond the financial capacity of the National Park Service. ◆ The Yellowstone Visa card features a low introductory APR, seasonal discounts with advance reservations at select Yellowstone National Park Lodges, and many other benefits. ◆ To apply for the card over the phone, or to request an application, call 888-327-2265 and ask for extension 8302. ◆ To apply for the Yellowstone Visa online, log onto the Yellowstone Park Foundation’s website at www.ypf.org.

The new Yellowstone Visa® credit card features this photograph of bull moose by wilderness photographer Tom Murphy

You Can Help Preserve and Protect Yellowstone

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

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

Yellowstone Park Foundation

The Yellowstone Park Foundation is dedicated to funding projects that protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone National Park. Its mission is to raise money for important projects and programs in Yellowstone that otherwise would go unfunded, due to shrinking federal budgets and a \$600–700 million operating and infrastructure backlog for the park.

Since January 1997 the Foundation has raised in excess of \$15 million to fund more than 55 projects for Yellowstone. Current and ongoing projects include:

- New interpretive exhibits for the museum at Fishing Bridge;
- A Lynx Population Study to help conserve this threatened species of wild cat;
- The Yellowstone Wolf Project, which monitors the habits, habitat needs, and

ecological impacts of the park’s wolf packs;

- A new Visitor Education Center to replace the outdated and inadequate visitor center at Old Faithful (see page A).

Now more than ever, Yellowstone needs your help! The Yellowstone Park Foundation receives no annual government funding; it relies on the generous contributions of private individuals, foundations, and corporations. For a donation of \$50 or more, you will receive a special premium gift. Donors of \$25 or more are recognized in Yellowstone’s Honor Book at Old Faithful for one year. Individuals who donate \$1,000 or more are recognized on the Wall of Honor for one year.

Please help protect the park’s wonders and wildlife by becoming a Friend of Yellowstone.

Yes, make me a Friend of Yellowstone National Park!

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

Enclosed is a tax-deductible gift of

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone ()

E-mail

Charge to: MC Visa

Credit Card #

Exp. Date

Make checks payable to The Yellowstone Park Foundation.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation

222 East Main, Suite 301
Bozeman, MT 59715 406-586-6303
or visit our website at www.ypf.org

Yellowstone Association

Join us!

as a partner in preserving and protecting Yellowstone through education!

Join us!

in any Yellowstone Association bookstore in park visitor centers and browse through our extensive selection of books, maps, and videos!

Our games, puzzles, and activity books will delight your children and help them learn more about Yellowstone’s wildlife and geology.

Join us!

in the Old Faithful Visitor Center to view a spectacular new film provided to visitors by the Yellowstone Association!

Learn about the massive volcanic hotspot just under your feet which shaped Yellowstone and fuels hot springs and geysers today!

Join us!

in a Yellowstone Association Institute class!

Yellowstone is the teacher, Mother Nature supplies the classroom materials, and the Yellowstone Association Institute provides an experienced and capable instructor.

Join us!

to receive many benefits available only to members!

Benefits include educational quarterly Yellowstone Association newsletters, plus discounts on your Association purchases, Institute classes, and selected park lodging. Proceeds from your Yellowstone Association purchase and membership fund a wide range of educational and preservation programs. A beautiful Yellowstone bookbag is free to all who join in park visitor centers.

Join us! and join the thousands who are already helping preserve and protect Yellowstone National Park through education.

Yellowstone Association
P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 (307) 344-2293
www.YellowstoneAssociation.org ya@YellowstoneAssociation.org

Winter 2002/2003

Lodging and Learning

This summer, make a deeper connection with Yellowstone by joining a Yellowstone Association Institute naturalist for four days of guided discovery in the world's first national park. The “**Lodging and Learning**” programs, offered through a unique partnership between Yellowstone National Park Lodges and the Yellowstone Association Institute, are multi-day packages that include lodging, breakfasts and lunches, in-park transportation, daily naturalist-led adventures, and optional evening programs.

Trails Through Yellowstone offers naturalist-led hiking, wildlife viewing and discovery in areas like Mammoth Hot Springs, the Old Faithful and Norris Geyser Basins, Lamar Valley, the Canyon area, and Hayden Valley. Comfortable accommodations and excellent meals are provided at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Grant Village.

As part of the September **Roosevelt Rendezvous** program, you'll experience

the sights and sounds of Yellowstone in autumn. Daily guided adventures include birding, hiking, and wildlife watching. This package also includes dinner served in the historic Roosevelt Lodge and private accommodations in Roosevelt's rustic cabins.

With **Yellowstone for Families**, enjoy family activities together such as animal tracking, wildlife watching, photography, educational videos, painting, and hiking. This program is designed for families with children ages 8–12, but other ages may be accommodated. You'll stay at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel by night, and by day you'll have the opportunity to discover areas like Lamar Valley and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Call 307-344-5566 for Lodging and Learning program details and reservations, or log on to www.yellowstoneassociation.org/institute/packages/index.htm for more information. Yellowstone. Don't just see it, experience it!

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY: 911

**Lodging, dining, camping,
activities: 307-344-7311 or
TDD 307-344-5395**

Park Information: 307-344-7381

Yellowstone Today

is produced by the Division of Interpretation, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, in cooperation with the Yellowstone Association and park concessioners. We welcome comments about the paper. Write to us at *Yellowstone Today*, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190.

Yellowstone Park Service Stations

Yellowstone Park Service Stations has been serving Yellowstone visitors since 1947. Since 1972, we have also served winter travelers, offering quality petroleum products at four winter locations.

Snowmobile fuel is available at Canyon, Old Faithful, and Fishing Bridge December 18–March 9 and at Mammoth Hot Springs December 18–March 2.

Drive belts, spark plugs, and accessories are available at Old Faithful, Canyon, and Fishing Bridge. (Snowmobile repair services are not available.)

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

Snowmobilers— YPSS Offers Services, Advice

Prior to the invention and proliferation of the snowmobile, the roads of Yellowstone National Park were seldom travelled in the winter. The resident winterkeepers, a few hardy souls on skis and snowshoes or in snowplanes, and an occasional ranger were about the only people out there among all of the winter wildlife and scenery. The tempo has changed during the past 30 years, but the unique Yellowstone winter wilderness experience is still here.

Yellowstone Park Service Stations (YPSS) has offered basic services to snowmobilers in Yellowstone since 1972. You are encouraged to play it safe out there—Yellowstone can be very unforgiving in winter. Familiarize yourself with the location of warming huts, public telephones, and other services in the park, and

know where you are as you travel. Dress intelligently and carry a tow rope, flashlight, matches, an extra drive belt, and spare spark plugs. Fill your fuel tank when you have the opportunity to do so. Travel at least in pairs if you can and watch each other for signs of hypothermia. Let someone know what your travel plans are, especially if traveling after dark, and check back in with them when you arrive at your destination. Be on the lookout for animals on the road. Do not approach wildlife closely. The energy an animal expends running from you may seriously affect the animal's prospects for survival.

It is a privilege to be able to live and work here in the winter. All of us who do hope you enjoy your winter visit.

Yellowstone Roads & Facilities

Park Information: 307-344-7381

TDD: 307-344-2386

Emergency: dial 911



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Spring Plowing Starts March 3

Throughout the park, groomed roads will close to oversnow vehicle (snowmobile and snow-coach) traffic for spring plowing as follows:

March 3: Mammoth to Norris

March 5: Madison to Norris to Canyon

March 10: All other park roads close to oversnow traffic.

Roads close at 8 AM on the days listed.

Spring road opening dates are on page 9.

SPEED KILLS

more than 100 large mammals
each year

SLOW DOWN
and
save a life

Chambers of Commerce

Montana		Wyoming	
Big Sky	406-995-3000	Cody	307-587-2297
Billings	406-245-4111	Dubois	307-455-2556
Bozeman	406-586-5421	East Yellowstone/ Wapiti Valley	307-587-9595
Cooke City-Silver Gate	406-838-2495	Jackson	307-733-3316
Gardiner	406-848-7971	Idaho	
Livingston	406-222-0850	Idaho Falls	208-523-1010
Red Lodge	406-446-1718	Eastern Idaho	
West Yellowstone	406-646-7701	Visitor Info Center	800-634-3246
Lodging only	406-646-9488		

Mammoth Clinic: Open weekdays 8:30 AM-1 PM and 2-5 PM; closed Wednesday afternoons; phone 307-344-7965.
Old Faithful Clinic: Staffed every 2 weeks during the winter season. Call the Mammoth Clinic for more information.
Visitor Centers
Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round
Old Faithful: Dec. 18-Mar. 2
Snowmobile Fuel
Old Faithful (9 AM-5 PM), Canyon Junction (10 AM-5 PM), Fishing Bridge (10 AM-5 PM): Dec. 18-Mar. 9; Mammoth Hot Springs (10 AM-5 PM): Dec. 18-Mar. 3

Food service
Dining Rooms:
Mammoth Hotel, Dec. 21-Mar. 2
Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Dec. 18-Mar. 9
Fast Foods: Old Faithful Snow Lodge—Geyser Grill, Dec. 18-Mar. 9
Snack Bars: Madison and Canyon warming huts, Dec. 18-Mar. 9
General Store
Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round
Restrooms

Lodging
Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel: Dec. 21-Mar. 2
Old Faithful Snow Lodge: Dec. 18-Mar. 9
Campground
Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round
Warming Huts
Dec. 18-early March: Mammoth, Indian Creek, Madison Junction, Old Faithful, West Thumb, Fishing Bridge, Canyon
Telephone

Over-snow routes—
no wheeled vehicles



This map is courtesy of Conoco—providing petroleum products since 1917 . . .
All service stations in Yellowstone offer environmentally sensitive fuels, specially formulated by Conoco to reduce hydrocarbon emissions and decrease other pollution-related problems.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Winter 2002/2003

What can you do in Yellowstone? Check out the listings inside this special section of *Yellowstone Today*. You'll find activities, talks, and other special events and experiences in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone to Build New Visitor Education Center at Old Faithful

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Old Faithful Geyser is visited by more than 85 percent of the 3.1 million people who come to Yellowstone each year. On peak summer days, more than 25,000 visitors await eruptions of Old Faithful and explore the surrounding geyser basin, which contains the world's largest concentration of active geysers.

But the existing visitor center at Old Faithful does not meet visitor needs for information, orientation, or educational services. It is too small and has no interpretive exhibits. The auditorium lacks sufficient seating for the many people who want to see new and exciting films about the park. Visitors leave the geyser basin without understanding its unique natural resources and their importance.

The National Park Service has long recognized the need for a new visitor center at Old Faithful, but more pressing problems have taken precedence. Now the Yellowstone Park Foundation is leading a capital campaign to raise at least \$15 million for an Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. A \$1.25 million grant from Unilever began the funding drive, followed by \$2 million from Conoco and, most recently, \$1 million from the Coca-Cola Foundation. Additional private donations have brought the total amount pledged to this project to more than \$9 million.

The new visitor education center will fit into the historic landscape. It will be fully accessible, energy-efficient, of sustainable design, and built with environmentally friendly construction materials and techniques. In the approximately 10,000 square feet of exhibit space, visitors will discover a "window on the Earth" with interactive exhibits, computer animations and simulations, videos, and films.

If you would like to contribute to the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, please contact the Yellowstone Park Foundation: 406-586-6303; 222 East Main Street, Suite 301; Bozeman, MT 59715; www.ypf.org, or complete and mail the coupon on page 10.

Visitor Centers and Warming Huts

Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth

Daily, year-round: 9 AM–5 PM. Information, bookstore, and exhibits on wildlife and history. Films on the national park idea and artist Thomas Moran are shown throughout the day. Call 307-344-2263.

Old Faithful Visitor Center

Daily, Dec. 18–March 9: 9 AM–5 PM. Information, bookstore, and geyser predictions. New film about hydrothermal features. Call 307-545-2750.

Warming Huts

Mammoth

Dec. 18–Mar. 2: 8 AM–5 PM
Vending machine snacks and cold drinks are available.

Old Faithful

Dec. 18–Mar. 9: Daytime only
Vending machine snacks are available.

Madison

Dec. 18–Mar. 9: 24 hours daily
Light snacks and hot drinks sold during the day; vending machine snacks available any time.

West Yellowstone: Chamber of Commerce, Public Lands Desk

Daily, Dec. 18–March 9: 7 AM–6 PM. Information, park entrance passes, publications. Located on the corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street. Call 406-646-4403.

Indian Creek

Dec. 18–Mar. 2: 24 hours daily

Fishing Bridge

Dec. 18–Mar. 9: 24 hours daily
Vending machine snacks and cold drinks available.

Canyon

Dec. 18–Mar. 9: 24 hours daily
Light snacks and hot drinks sold during the day; vending machine snacks available any time.

West Thumb

Dec. 18–Mar. 9: 24 hours daily

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Residential Learning:
Expedition
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Yellowstone Institute
Classes



Self-Guiding Trails

Stretch your legs on these self-guiding trails. Check at a visitor center for current conditions and to purchase a trail guide for a 50¢ donation. The guides are also available at each trail.

Canyon Area

View the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and the Upper and Lower Falls from overlooks; see for yourself why viewpoints are named Grandview and Artist Point.

Fort Yellowstone

Enjoy a walking tour around this historic site at Mammoth Hot Springs. Most buildings were constructed during the time that the U.S. Army managed the park (1886–1918). They are now used by the National Park Service as its headquarters.

Fountain Paint Pot

View examples of the four types of hydrothermal features: geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, and mudpots. Eight miles (12.9 km) north of Old Faithful.

Mammoth Hot Springs

Hot spring activity is sculpting an ever-changing landscape of travertine terraces. Walk through active and inactive

areas and enjoy a scenic ski or snowshoe through the Upper Terraces.

Mud Volcano Area

Discover turbulent and explosive mudpots, including Mud Volcano and Dragon's Mouth. View—and smell—Sulphur Caldron. Located on the road between Lake and Canyon, 6 miles (9.6 km) north of Fishing Bridge Junction.

Norris Geyser Basin

Explore the hottest, most dynamic geyser basin in the park, which includes Steamboat, the world's tallest geyser. It erupted in September 2002—its second eruption since May 2000.

Old Faithful & Upper Geyser Basin

The world's largest concentration of geysers is located in the Upper Geyser Basin. View Old Faithful then walk the trails past hundreds of geysers and hot springs.

West Thumb Geyser Basin

The boiling springs in this basin, including the famous Fishing Cone, discharge their waters into chilly Yellowstone Lake. The Absaroka Mountains provide a backdrop to this self-guiding trail.

Ranger—Led Programs

Winter 2002/2003

Mammoth Hot Springs

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visitor Center Open daily, year-round	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM
Snowshoe Yellowstone! Starts December 31, ends February 25 Experience Yellowstone National Park’s winter beauty on a guided snowshoe walk with a park ranger. Learn about the diversity of life in this season as you silently traverse the snow. Advance reservations required. Call 307-344-2263 or stop by Albright (Mammoth) Visitor Center. Some snowshoes are available free or they can be rented for \$8 (half day) from the Bear Den Ski Shop next to the Mammoth Hotel. Come prepared with warm, layered clothes, sunglasses and water. You will need to drive 5–15 miles to a suitable location. Beginners welcome! <i>2 to 3 hours</i>			1:30 PM				
Winter Wildlife Tour Starts December 25, ends February 26 Join a park ranger on this narrated bus tour of Yellowstone’s northern range, an important winter habitat for many species. Dress warmly. A limited number of binoculars and spotting scopes are provided. Meet at the Mammoth Hotel Lobby. Advance reservations required through Xanterra Parks and Resorts. Call 307-344-7311 or stop by the Mammoth Hotel (\$21, children less). <i>3–3½ hours</i>				1 PM			
Talk: Feathers, Fur, and Fleece—Warm Up to Winter Starts December 23, ends February 24 Wolves, elk, bison, birds, and other animals survive and thrive in the frozen winter environment of Yellowstone National Park. How do you warm up to winter? Grab a cup of coffee or hot cocoa and join a ranger for a talk about the park’s wildlife. Meet in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. <i>½ hour</i> ♿	4 PM	4 PM					
Evening Program Starts December 26, ends March 1 Join a park ranger for an illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone’s natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Program descriptions will be posted in the Mammoth Hotel and Albright Visitor center. Meet in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. <i>1 hour</i> ♿					8:30 PM	8:30 PM	8:30 PM

Old Faithful

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visitor Center Open Daily, 12/18/02–3/9/03	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM
Geology Talk Starts December 25, ends March 9 Yellowstone’s history of volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers reveals a restless geological past (and present!). Learn about Yellowstone’s geology and its effects on the ecosystem during this presentation. Meet in the Old Faithful Visitor Center Auditorium. <i>20 minutes</i> ♿	11 AM	11 AM	11 AM	2 PM	2 PM	11 AM	11 AM
Old Faithful Walk Starts December 25, ends March 9 Learn the ins and outs of one of the rarest geological features on earth—geysers! Accompany a park ranger for this 0.7-mile walk around Old Faithful Geyser and explore the world of hydrothermal features. Come prepared with warm layered clothes and warm sturdy footwear. Meet at Old Faithful Visitor Center. <i>1 hour</i>	2 PM		2 PM			2 PM	2 PM
Evening Program Starts December 25, ends March 9 Join a park ranger for an slide-illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone’s natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Weekly program descriptions posted in Old Faithful Visitor Center. Meet at the Old Faithful Visitor Center Auditorium. <i>45 minutes</i> ♿				7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

West Yellowstone

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, Public Lands Desk Open Daily, 12/18/02–3/9/03	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM	7 AM–6 PM
Snowshoe Walk Starts December 28, ends March 8 Discover Yellowstone’s fascinating winter ecology while wearing snowshoes. Join a park ranger for a 2-mile walk into Yellowstone National Park along the Riverside Trail. Meet at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street, in West Yellowstone, Montana. Bring snowshoes—no experience necessary. Also bring water and a snack. For information, please call 406-646-4403. <i>3 hours</i>				1:30 PM			1:30 PM

♿ = Accessible

Tours & Other Programs

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Winter 2002/2003

Xanterra Parks & Resorts

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
INTERPRETIVE SNOWCOACH TOURS							
Full and half-day adventures in heated oversnow vehicles.							
From West Yellowstone to Old Faithful: \$46	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM	11:30 AM–2:30 PM
From Old Faithful to West Yellowstone: \$46	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM	8–10:30 AM
From Mammoth to Old Faithful: \$48.50	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON	8 AM–NOON
From Old Faithful to Mammoth: \$48.50	2–6 PM	2–6 PM	2–6 PM	2–6 PM	2–6 PM	2–6 PM	2–6 PM
From Old Faithful to Flagg Ranch: \$51	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON	9 AM–NOON
From Flagg Ranch to Old Faithful: \$51	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM	1–4:30 PM
Canyon Day Tour, from Old Faithful: \$97	8:30 AM–6 PM	8:30 AM–6 PM		8:30 AM–6 PM	8:30 AM–6 PM		8:30 AM–6 PM
Canyon Day Tour, from Mammoth: \$92	8:30 AM–5 PM	8:30 AM–5 PM	8:30 AM–5 PM		8:30 AM–5 PM	8:30 AM–5 PM	
Old Faithful Day Tour, from West Yellowstone: \$92	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM	9 AM–5 PM
Firehole River Wildlife Tour, Old Faithful only: \$24	1–4 PM		1–4 PM			1–4 PM	
West Thumb Geyser Basin Tour, Old Faithful only: \$24		1–4 PM			1–4 PM		
INTERPRETIVE BUS TOURS							
Winter Wildlife Tour, Mammoth Hotel only: \$21 Ranger-led interpretive tour to Lamar Valley via bus or van				1–4 PM			
Daybreak Tour, Mammoth Hotel only: \$23 Tour to Lamar Valley via van or bus, with continental breakfast							7–10:30 AM
SKI AND SNOWSHOE TOURS							
Grand Canyon Ski Tour, from Old Faithful: \$99			8 AM–6 PM			8 AM–6 PM	
Grand Canyon Ski Tour, from Mammoth: \$99							8 AM–6 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddles, Old Faithful to Fairy Falls: \$35							Noon–5 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddles, Old Faithful to DeLacy Creek: \$35				Noon–5 PM			
Cooke City See and Ski, from Mammoth: \$59						8:30 AM–5:30 PM	
Guided Snowshoe Tour, Mammoth or Old Faithful: \$27 tour with snowshoe rental; \$22 tour only	8:30–11:30 AM				8:30–11:30 AM (Old Faithful only)		
EVENING PROGRAMS							
Interpretive slide show and talk about early visitor experiences in Yellowstone Mammoth Map Room	8:30 PM	8:30 PM	8:30 PM	8:30 PM			
Live Piano Music in the Mammoth Map Room	5 PM	5 PM	5 PM	5 PM	5 PM	5 PM	5 PM

Other Activities Through Xanterra

Yellowstone National Park Lodges is again offering Winter Getaway value packages, which make it easier to enjoy the park under its frosty cover. Mammoth packages include a 1-hour hot tub rental and unlimited ice-skating. Old Faithful packages include round-trip snow-coach transportation per person. Plus, each package includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts per person, a welcome gift and a Snow Card (good for 10% off of meals, select gifts, in-park transportation, tours, ski shop services and snowmobile rentals. The Snow Card is valid all winter, so keep it for your next visit!) Rates below are valid January 1–March 9, 2003, and do not include tax.

Frosty Fun Package

Mammoth:
\$94 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$158 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful:
\$213 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$323 Single Occupancy

Nordic Heaven—Includes 1-day ski rental and ski drop per person.
Mammoth:
\$116 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$180 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful:
\$235 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$345 Single Occupancy
Snomo-Deal—Includes 1-day snowmobile rental (1 machine) and clothing package. Extra snowmobile and snowmobile clothing package: \$148 additional
Mammoth:
\$171 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$312 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful:
\$290 Per Person Double Occupancy
\$477 Single Occupancy
Visit our website at www.TravelYellowstone.com for details. To reserve, stop by one of the hotel front desks or call us at 307-344-7311.

Become a Winter Junior Ranger

Children, invite your family to join you on an unforgettable adventure—Yellowstone National Park’s official Winter Junior Ranger Program.

You get to hike, ski, or snowshoe a trail, attend a ranger-led program, and complete fun-filled activities designed for students 5–12 years old.

Simply purchase your copy of *Yellowstone’s Nature*, the 8-page Junior Ranger activity paper for \$3 at the Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth, the Old Faithful Visitor Center, or the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce—Public Lands Desk.

Once you have completed the program requirements, stop back into one of these locations so a ranger can review your work and award you an arrowhead-shaped patch like the one shown above. It’s new this winter and features a snowflake.

Participate in this winter program and join more than 17,000 children who became Junior Rangers last year.



Earn a winter patch. It's new this year!

A National Park Service Program

Other Educational Opportunities

Winter 2002/2003

With the National Park Service

WINDOWS INTO WONDERLAND

Attention all middle school students!
Now loading the cyber-bus to adventure!

Climb aboard Yellowstone National Park's cyber-bus and look through its Windows Into Wonderland. These electronic field trips serve as your passports to fascinating journeys, simply by logging on to the website.

During the 2002–2003 school year, learn about fire ecology and visit Yellowstone during the 1988 Summer of Fire. Travel back in time 11,000 years to an ice-covered Yellowstone landscape; then return to the present with brief stops at landmark events in the park's history. Enter the den of a

wolf, learn how a pup grows to become a full-fledged pack member, and find out how the gray wolf was restored to Yellowstone National Park. Come face to face with a grizzly bear and discover its habits and life history, then take a crash course in bear-country safety. Walk into the works of artist Thomas Moran or photographer William Jackson. You'll witness the influence of art in Yellowstone first-hand as they reveal the marvels of Yellowstone to the American public.

Here is your chance for an

electronic adventure through "Wonderland," a nickname for Yellowstone even before it became a national park.

These trips are free, so be sure to mention this exciting opportunity to your teachers and friends. Your class will be able to register online and Yellowstone park staff will answer your questions for three days after the premiere of each field trip.

Come join the fun! Last year's Windows Into Wonderland explorers included students from all 50 states and 19 other countries.

www.windowsintowonderland.org

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Bring Your Class to Yellowstone & Let Us Do the Teaching!

Teachers: How would you like to spend 4–5 days and nights with your 4th–6th grade students? If it sounds too good to be true, believe it! The historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch in Yellowstone National Park is where dreams really do come true. This is where parent chaperones have said, "This is the most important thing that could happen to children during their elementary education" and that "The experience benefits the adults as much as the students." Your students, chaperones, and yourself are invited to participate in *Expedition: Yellowstone!*—a curriculum-based residential education program in its 18th year of operation. Through field

investigations, hikes, creative dramatics, journal writing, and group discussions, students learn about the natural and cultural resources of Yellowstone and the current issues affecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

This program currently operates during the months of April–May and September–October in the northeast corner of the park. As a cost-recovery program, fees cover faculty salaries and instructional materials. For groups between 30–40 students and adults, the cost is \$20/person/night and groups less than 30 people are charged \$25/person/night. Presently, the curriculum is being

expanded to incorporate 7th and 8th grades and winter lesson plans with the goal to expand to a nine-month program for 4th–8th grade classes. A staff of park rangers with diverse education backgrounds instructs these expeditions through the park. The Expedition: Yellowstone! coordinator will work with you to tailor an itinerary for your students that best meets their educational needs. All activities are correlated to Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho state education standards. For more information, contact the Expedition: Yellowstone! Coordinator, PO Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190.

Classes at the Yellowstone Institute

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Photo courtesy of the Yellowstone Association

The Yellowstone Association Institute is a non-profit field school operated in partnership with the National Park Service to help visitors gain a deeper appreciation for the world's first national park. To enhance your winter visit, the Institute offers three types of programs:

Field Seminars explore a single topic in depth, from nature writing to wolf biology. Based at the historic Buffalo Ranch in the northeast corner of the park, the courses are taught by a variety of Yellowstone experts. Accommodations are available on site in simple and comfortable log cabins.

This winter's courses include: Yellowstone Family Winter Adventure (Dec. 19–22), Winter Photography (Jan. 6–8), Avalanche Safety (Jan. 9–12), Yellowstone's Wolves (Jan. 17–19), Basic Snow Tracking (Jan. 19–21), Wilderness First Aid (Jan. 22–23), Writing About Winter (Jan. 27–30), Exploring Yellowstone on Snowshoes (Jan. 30–Feb. 2), Wildlife on Yellowstone's Northern Range (Feb. 8–9), Yellowstone Coyotes (Feb. 10–12), Wolf Watching in Yellowstone (Feb. 28–March 2), Wolf Conservation and Management (March 3–5), Wolf Social Behavior (March 5–7), Snow Tracking (March 13–16), Wildlife Observation—Winter (March 21–24), and Coyote and Raven (March 22–24).

Lodging and Learning programs are learning vacations offered in cooperation with Xanterra Parks and Resorts. The packages include instruction by an Institute naturalist/guide, breakfast and box lunch daily, accommodations at park hotels, ski/snowshoe rental, and in-park transportation. Programs are offered weekly throughout January and February. The Lodging and Learning programs are:

- **Yellowstone for Families—Winter**
Three days discovering winter in Yellowstone with an expert naturalist.
- **Winter Wolf Discovery**
Two days learning about Yellowstone's wolves with an Institute wolf biologist.
- **Winter Wildlife Expedition**
Two days discovering the abundant and varied wildlife.
- **Wonderland**
Five days exploring Yellowstone's winter environment on skis, snowshoes, and during interpretive snow-coach trips to Old Faithful and Canyon.
- **Yellowstone On Skis**
Five days of interpretive ski tours from geyser basins to Yellowstone's Grand Canyon.

Educational Adventures are personal natural history tours based on your own schedule and interests. An Institute naturalist will meet you in Mammoth and join you in your vehicle for a day of watching and learning about Yellowstone wildlife.

The Institute is sponsored by the Yellowstone Association, a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the public's understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of Yellowstone National Park by funding and providing educational products and services. To obtain information or register for a course, contact the Institute registrar at 307-344-2294 or registrar@yellowstoneassociation.org. Complete course information is also available at www.yellowstoneassociation.org.

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Photo courtesy of the Yellowstone Association