

Yellowstone

Day Hikes

In the Bechler Area

Yellowstone National Park
 P.O. Box 168
 Yellowstone, WY 82190
www.nps.gov/yell



Welcome to Bechler

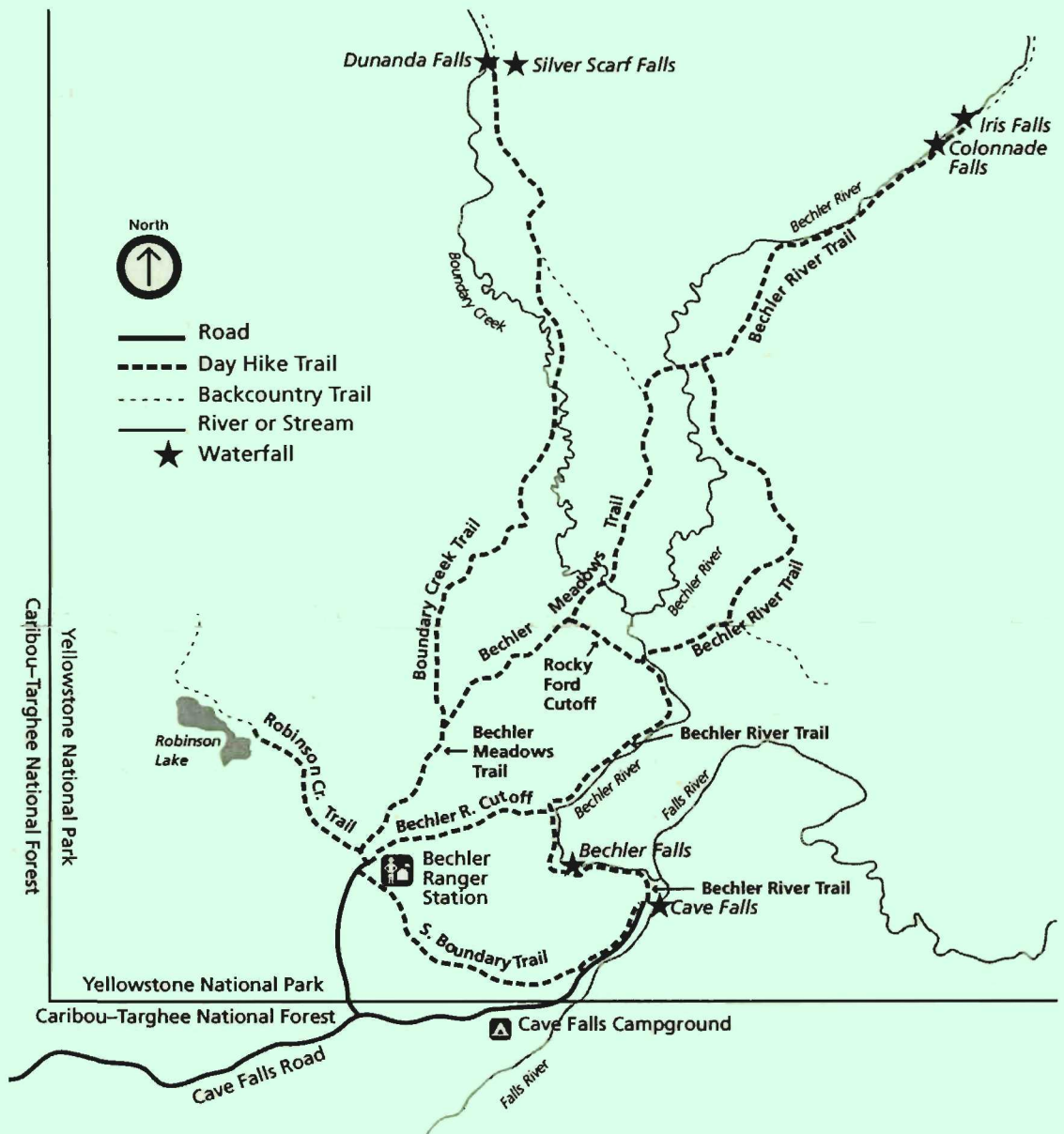
Here in "Cascade Corner," you can enjoy easy to moderate trails that follow rivers, lead to waterfalls, and traverse meadows. Before heading out, check at the Bechler Ranger Station, open 7 days a week in the summer from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, for trail & stream conditions and bear sightings. Obtain maps and permits there too.

Overnight backcountry users and anglers must obtain permits at a ranger station. You are responsible for adhering to park regulations.

About Bears

Bechler is home to many black bears and some grizzly bears. Although your chance of an encounter is low, your safety is not guaranteed. Minimize your risks by making loud noises, shouting, or singing. Hike in groups and use caution where vision is obstructed. Do not hike after dark. Avoid carcasses; bears often defend this source of food. Never leave food unattended without hanging it at least 10 feet up in a tree and 4 feet out from the trunk. If you encounter a bear, give it plenty of room. Do not approach a bear; instead, back away slowly. Report all bear sightings to a ranger. Obtain detailed bear information at the Bechler Ranger Station.

Read about other cautions & the hikes on the other side.



Wildlife in Bechler

Along the rivers and streams, you may see beaver, muskrat, river otter, osprey, bald eagle, moose, and waterfowl. In the meadows, look for sandhill cranes, moose, and coyotes, and an ever-changing cast of wildflowers in spring and early summer.

CAUTIONS—see also “About Bears,” on the other side

Hydrothermal areas: The thin ground in these areas breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water. Stay on the trail.

Wildlife: You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals—including birds. It is illegal to disturb animals from any distance.

Stream Crossings: Bring extra shoes or sandals for fording rivers. Do not ford in bare feet. Check at the ranger station for stream conditions.

Biting Insects: Mosquitos, biting flies, and other pesky insects thrive here. Use a strong repellent.

Horses & other stock: Stock users have the right of way. Step off the trail to let them pass; be quiet.

Cave Falls to Bechler Falls

Round trip: 3 miles
Little to no elevation change.

From the Cave Falls Trailhead, walk north along the Falls River to the confluence with the Bechler River. The trail continues along the river to Bechler Falls, another of the area’s impressive cascades. Return the same way.

Cave Falls Loop

Loop distance: 7 miles
Little to no elevation change.

Start from the Bechler Ranger Station on the South Boundary Trail, which starts just south of the barn, and follow the signs to Cave Falls. You will walk through lodgepole pine forest; expect to ford a small stream about a half mile from the station. The trail parallels the Cave Falls Road for about a mile. From Cave Falls, head upstream on the Bechler River Trail past Bechler Falls and then another mile to the junction with the Bechler River Cutoff Trail, which goes southwest back to the ranger station. The trail is equally easy in the reverse loop.

Robinson Lake

Round trip: 4 miles
Little to no elevation change.

From the Bechler Ranger Station take the Robinson Creek Trail, which forks to the left (west) immediately after the trailhead. This quiet trail travels primarily through conifer forest for two miles before reaching Robinson Lake, which is covered with lily pads. This is a great spot to watch for moose, elk, and most of the riparian species found in the Bechler area. Return the same way.

Rocky Ford Loop

Loop distance: 7–8 miles
Little to no elevation change.

From the Bechler Ranger Station, take the Bechler Meadows Trail north through lodgepole pine forest 3 miles to the Rocky Ford Cutoff Trail. From here, it would be worth your while to walk an extra half mile north and take a look at the beautifully expansive Bechler Meadows. Then retrace your steps south to the Rocky Ford Cutoff and head southeast to Rocky Ford. Instead of fording the river, head south on the Bechler River Trail to the junction with the Bechler River Cutoff Trail, which goes southwest back to the ranger station. This trail, except for the half-mile Rocky Ford Cutoff, remains relatively dry compared to the rest of the Bechler area. Look for beaver-chewed trees and willows.

Terraced Falls

Round trip: 3.6 miles
Elevation change: 200 feet

Note: This trail is closer to Yellowstone’s South Entrance than to the Bechler Ranger Station. It begins on Grassy Lake Road at Cascade Creek Trailhead. Follow the old dirt road about ¼ mile, where the trail enters the park; take the left fork. Follow the signs north 1.4 miles along Cascade Creek and then the Falls River until the trail ends at Terraced Falls. Return the same way.



Colonnade and Iris Falls

Round trip: 18–20 miles
Elevation change: 400 feet

From the Bechler Ranger Station take the Bechler Meadows Trail north 3.5 miles to the meadows. Cross Boundary Creek, continue on the trail through the meadows and ford the Bechler River at the upper end of the meadows. Look southeast for a view of the Grand Tetons and northwest to see Ouzel Falls in the adjacent drainage. From the Bechler Ford, the trail travels gradually up into the lush and diverse Bechler Canyon, home to some of the park’s largest Douglas-firs. Watch for pikas in the talus slopes, and moose and black bears. Soon you will reach Colonnade Falls, a two-part waterfall. The falls is the barrier for rainbow trout. Upstream you will find only cutthroat trout. After another mile, you will reach Iris Falls. Return the same way.

Dunanda Falls

Round trip: 16 miles
Elevation change: 600 feet

Start at the Bechler Ranger Station and head north on the Bechler Meadows Trail. After 1.6 miles, take the Boundary Creek Trail northwest. You will need to ford Bartlett Slough, a body of stagnant water ranging from 2 to 3½ feet deep, depending on the time of year. After crossing the slough you will emerge into Bechler Meadows. Continue north; when you reach campsite 9A1, you will ford Boundary Creek. Soon the trail will lead through the Robinson fire burn. The brink of the falls is one mile north of the burn at the end of a moderately steep climb with spectacular views of the Grand Tetons and meadows. Return the same way.
