

Yellowstone Today



Official Newspaper of Yellowstone National Park

Winter 2000/2001

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The National Parks Pass is the new way to save on entrance fees! See p. 4.



NPS photo/Jim Peaco

Caution!

Yellowstone has many hidden and unmarked hazards. Freezing, thawing, and extreme temperatures can create dangerous conditions. Take proper precautions; use common sense and extra care near canyons, waterfalls, thermal areas, viewpoints, and wildlife. Watch your children. Your hand and your voice may be too far away once your child leaves your side.

Road conditions from Gardiner to Cooke City, Montana, can be icy, snow-packed, and hazardous. Snow tires or chains are always recommended and at times may be required.

Please drive, walk, snowmobile, and ski safely to protect yourself and your park.

Plan Your Visit and Enjoy Yellowstone Safely

Winter in Yellowstone is a time of extremes: boiling versus frozen water, the suspended animation of hibernating animals versus the struggle of others to find food, days of whiteout versus days of pure sparkling colors. Transformed by cold temperatures, water assumes endlessly variable forms and shapes: waterfalls freeze into giant icicles, geyser spray creates fantastic ice sculptures, Yellowstone Lake freezes from shore to shore.

Wildlife and people adapt to harsh conditions in ways both obvious and subtle. In the vast wilderness of Yellowstone, snow and cold combine with natural wonders to create an incomparable winter experience.

Yellowstone's season of winter operations runs from late December to early March.

First, decide how you will get around the park. Heavy accumulations of snow limit driving; the only road open for year-round automobile travel is the Gardiner, MT-Cooke City, MTroad (North Entrance to 7 miles east of the Northeast Entrance). All other park roads are closed to wheeled vehicles but some are groomed for snowmobile or snowcoach travel. Snowmobiles, rented or privately owned, and snowcoaches are permitted only on groomed roadways; sidehilling and off-road travel are illegal.

Snowcoaches—winter vehicles on skis and caterpillar tread—depart from Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, West Yellowstone (at the West Entrance) and Flagg Ranch (outside the South

Entrance). Reservations are strongly recommended; call Yellowstone National Park Lodges at 307-344-7311 for information and reservations.

Snowmobiles may be rented from outfitters in nearby communities or from the park concessioner Yellowstone National Park Lodges. 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 4).

Operators must have a valid motor vehicle driver's license. Before beginning your trip, get an up-to-date road and weather report. The key to enjoying your winter visit is preparation.

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。各園来客センターには日本語の案内情報が用意されています。

Unique dangers exist in Yellowstone National park. See page 2. You can obtain more information at visitor centers and entrance stations.

Map & spring plowing schedule on back page.

Park Information
 307-344-7381
www.nps.gov/yell

Emergency
 Dial 911

You Need to Read This Page!

Winter 2000/2001

Scalding Water Can Kill You

Beautiful but deadly: Yellowstone's thermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. The crust surrounding them is thin and breaks easily, and often overlies more scalding water. If you break through crust or accidentally fall into a pool, you may die.

- **You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails.** They exist to protect you and to preserve delicate formations.
- Pets are prohibited in thermal areas.
- Swimming or bathing is prohibited in thermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a thermal spring or pool.
- Where swimming is allowed, swim at your own risk. Thermal waters may contain organisms known to cause infections and/or amoebic meningitis, which can be quickly fatal. Obtain more information at any ranger station or visitor center.

Watch for Ice on Roads and Trails

- **Only two roads in the park are plowed:**
Between the North Entrance and Cooke City, Montana
From Mammoth to the parking area at the Upper Terraces
 - 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 icy, making footing dangerous. Obey trail closures.** Proceed with caution at all times and watch your children closely.

High Altitude

Visitors with a cardiac or respiratory medical history should be aware that most park roads are above 5,300 in elevation. We recommend contacting a physician prior to your visit.

Be aware of your physical limitations. Don't overexert. Drink plenty of fluids to forestall the dehydrating effects of the park's dry climate. Stop and rest frequently.

Hypothermia and Frostbite

Even on seemingly calm days, you can be at risk for hypothermia and frostbite. Both occur when you are exposed to cold temperatures, wind, and when you are inadequately prepared with 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 functional use of fingers, toes, nose, ears, or other extremities. Protect yourself with warm, layered clothing and frequent stops to warm up.

Know the warning signs of hypothermia and frostbite and how to treat both conditions.

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 one. See page 6 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.

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. (See above.)

Attention Anglers

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

Pets

Pets must be leashed. They are prohibited in thermal basins, in the backcountry, and on any trails—including ski trails. 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.

Weapons

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

Avoid These Situations

Your visit may be marred by tragedy if you violate park rules. Law enforcement rangers strictly enforce park regulations to protect you and the park. Please help keep our contacts with you pleasant by obeying park regulations and avoiding these problems:

- speeding (radar enforced)
- driving while intoxicated (open container law is enforced)
- off-road travel by vehicle or bicycle
- improper food storage
- camping violations
- pets off leash
- littering
- swimming in thermal pools
- removal or possession of natural (flowers, antlers, etc.) or cultural (artifacts) features
- feeding or approaching wildlife
- spotlighting (viewing animals with artificial light)
- calling in elk by imitating bugles or using buglers
- fishing violations
- failure to remove detachable side mirrors when not pulling trailers

Violations of park regulations can be punishable by fine and/or court appearance.

Stay Away from Wildlife

You will see more of an animal's natural behavior and activity if you are sensitive to its need for space. That need is most critical in winter. Cold and deep snow can make finding food difficult; every movement costs precious energy.

Do not approach any wildlife. View them from the safety of your vehicle. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

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

BISON may appear tame and slow but they are unpredictable and dangerous. They weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint at 30 miles per hour (48 kph)—three times faster than you can run! Every year visitors are gored, and some have been killed.

BEARS may be seen in early and late winter. Be alert for tracks and sign. Never approach animal carcasses. Report all bear sightings to a ranger.

COYOTES quickly learn bad habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans. See article on page 6.

RAVENS have learned to unzip or 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 the animals.

Emergency: dial 911 • Park Information: 307-344-7381

Winter Wonderland

Winter 2000/2001

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NPS photo/Frank Bobbitts

Facts and 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
- Thermal features: About 10,000 thermal features are known, including more than 300 geysers
- Grand Loop Road provides access to major scenic attractions. Some, such as Old Faithful Geyser or the Grand Canyon, can only be seen by parking and walking to the feature. 142 miles (229 km) total around; Upper Loop, 70 miles (113 km); Lower Loop, 96 miles (155 km)
- Quick tour: Explore one area instead of seeing the entire park from the road. Many people believe that to fully appreciate just the major attractions in Yellowstone, you must spend at least three days
- 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
- 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.

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NPS photo

Geysers & Hot Springs

An unparalleled array of geothermal phenomena—geysers, hot springs, mud pots, 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. Thermal 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 thermal areas because food is easier to find.

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

Grand Canyon

The Yellowstone River has carved a great canyon through rocks altered by thermal 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. By mid-winter the roar of the Upper and Lower Falls is muffled behind massive sheets of ice. Water seems frozen in motion, as though instantly transformed from towering falls to icicle. 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 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 from shore to shore (except for isolated spots of thermal 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 an intensely cold subzero night. On average, the lake is ice-locked by December 25. In the few days between freeze-up and the accumulation of insulating snow, solar radiation causes heating and expansion of the vast sheet. Ice noisily shifts—creaking, popping, and groaning in the stillness; locals say this is the time that “the lake sings.”

This vast body of water is a complex system influencing climate, plants, and animals over a far greater area than its shoreline boundaries. Set beneath the Absaroka Mountains, it defines the essence of winter—an untouched 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 thermal 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 11 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.

Accessibility Guide Available



A free *Visitors Guide to Accessible Features in Yellowstone National Park* is available at all entrance stations and visitor centers in the park.

This guide describes which facilities have been judged to be negotiable for wheelchair users. Additional facilities are being made accessible as quickly as possible within funding limitations.

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



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 two of 100 National Park Service units that were selected to participate in the new fee program. The additional funds generated by the fee increase are being used for projects that the parks have been unable to fund in the past 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. Examples of projects underway include major renovation of Canyon Visitor Center including the development of new geology exhibits, replacing outdated audiovisual equipment at Old Faithful Visitor Center, campground and amphitheater upgrades, and natural and cultural resource studies.

Snowmobiling

Winter 2000/2001

You Need a License!

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All snowmobile operators in Yellowstone National Park are required to possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license. In addition, persons possessing a learner's permit may operate a snowmobile in the park when supervised one-to-one within line-of-sight (but not farther than 100 yards) by a licensed person 21 years of age or older. The policy change was implemented because of the park's concern about the number of snowmobile accidents involving young operators.

Snowmobile use has increased dramatically in the park during the past decade, and it is now common to have 800 snow machines, including track-conversion vehicles and snowcoaches, operating each day on the park road system. Modern snowmobiles weigh 400-500 pounds and are capable of quick acceleration to more than 70 mph. Between 1987 and 1992, youthful operators accounted for an average of 16 percent of the snowmobile accidents in the park, while composing an estimated 5 percent or less of the total number of snowmobile operators.

Park officials believe that winter traffic conditions in Yellowstone are more similar to a highway driving situation than to the snowmobile and off-road vehicle trails found elsewhere. Under the highway conditions found in the park, most young snowmobilers are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of their judgment, experience, and physical capabilities compared to a licensed driver.

The driver's license requirement implemented in 1993 for snowmobiling in Yellowstone is not unprecedented. A number of states require the possession of a valid driver's license

to operate a snowmobile on public lands or on public roads. Options for young people visiting the park during the winter include doubling up on a snowmobile operated by a licensed driver or using any of the authorized commercial snowcoach services that provide transportation in the park.

NPS photo/Jim Peaco

Rules & Regulations

- Snowmobile operators must have a valid state motor vehicle driver's license in possession. Persons possessing 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.
- Maximum speed limit is 45 mph (72 kph) or less where posted or as conditions warrant; speed is checked by radar. Obey all speed limit and stop signs.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Allow enough distance between snowmobiles when traveling.
- Pass only when safe.
- If you turn around, you must do so within the road width.
- Drive on the right side of the road even if the roads are rough.
- Drive in single file.
- When stopping, pull to the far right and park in single file.
- You must stay on designated roads. Sidehilling, berm-riding, 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 will be denied entry into the park.
- Thermal basins, viewpoints, and walkways are snowpacked and icy during winter; fog reduces visibility. Stay on boardwalks or maintained trails; walk carefully. Watch your children. Your hand or voice may be too far away if your child leaves your side.
- Approaching, chasing, molesting, or feeding animals is prohibited. Winter is a time of great stress. When you force an animal to move, it uses energy vital to its survival.
- Wild animals have the right of way.

A New Way to Save On Yellowstone Entrance Fees

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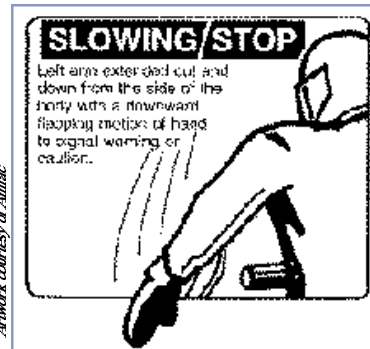
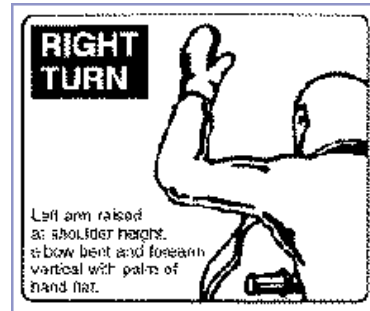
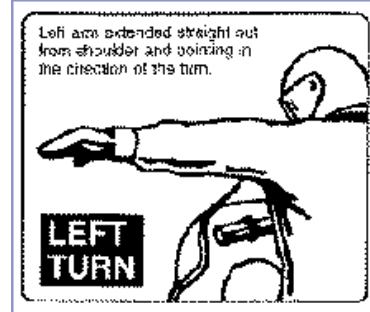
*The
National
Parks Pass*

provides a new way to save money when visiting your national parks. One annual fee of \$50 enables you to enter all National Park Service areas. You receive a great value by purchasing the pass, and you also provide support to 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 380 national parks in the system. To obtain your pass, stop by one of Yellowstone's entrance stations, or purchase the pass online at www.national-parks.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 fee areas.

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 federal 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)

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



Please Use Hand Signals

Skiing & Snowshoeing

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NPS photo/Fred Hirschmann

Trails

You have a choice of many ski trails throughout the park; pick up maps and trail descriptions at visitor centers for trails in the Mammoth, Tower, Northeast, Canyon, and Old Faithful areas. These trails range from easy to difficult.

Old Faithful Area

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 quite steep and should be skied with 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 cautious of falling trees. You can ski back to Old Faithful by following the trail next to 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.

Northeast Region

Skiing opportunities abound along the plowed road between Mammoth and the Northeast Entrance. Popular trails include:

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 thermal area; please stay on the trail.

Bunsen Peak Trail

This 6-mile trail follows the old Bunsen Peak road; in places it is quite steep and has some sharp turns. Catch the concessioner-operated ski shuttle from Mammoth to the trail's upper end, just south of Rustic Falls. Along the trail, you will have fine 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 the broad vistas of meadows surrounded by mountain peaks, and look for elk, deer, coyotes, and bison scattered throughout their winter range.

- All unplowed roads and trails are open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- 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.

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. Plus, you might see bison, bighorn sheep, or bald eagles. Continue on the 5.5 mile Chittenden Loop Trail or return to Tower Junction.

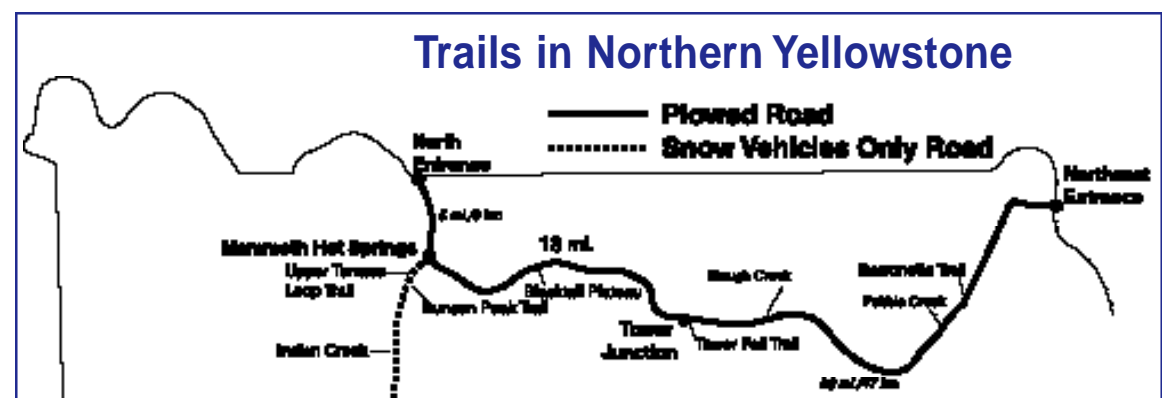
Barronette Trail

This 3.5-mile trail near the Northeast Entrance follows Soda Butte Creek along an abandoned roadway and parallels the Northeast Entrance Road. The trail is mostly in a conifer forest at the base of Barronette Peak, but offers spectacular scenery and consistent snow conditions.

For more details about these and other ski trails, check at the visitor centers at Mammoth or Old Faithful.

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
 - matches or lighter
 - water & food
 - map
 - compass
 - ski repair kit
- If you are planning an overnight ski trip, carry all of the above, plus:
 - backcountry permit
 - backpack
 - sleeping bag
 - small tarp
 - tent or bivouac bag
 - closed-cell sleeping pad
 - stove and pots
 - easily-prepared food
 - first-aid kit
 - repair parts and tools
 - probe pole
 - transceiver
 - shovel
 - knife



Winter Safety Tips

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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 & Snowshoers

- **Evaluate your party's capabilities.** Plan your outing so that the weakest member will enjoy and survive it.
- Learn about your **equipment's capabilities and weaknesses** and be prepared to repair it.
- **Never closely approach geysers, hot springs, or mud pots.** You may fall through overhanging snow ledges or thin crust. Do not leave designated trails in geothermal areas.
- Beware of icy conditions on downhill grades leading into thermal 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 thermal activity. Crossing rivers may be dangerous; some have bridges and some do not. Ask a ranger about local crossings.
- **Do not approach wildlife.** All 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.
- Fires during the summer of 1988 burned near or across many ski trails and destroyed the trunks and root systems of many trees, creating **hazardous standing snags, which could fall with little warning.** Be alert for this possibility, and, while in burned areas, stay on established trails.
- **Exertion in dry mountain air can dehydrate you.** Carry and 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.
- **Basic ski etiquette: yield to those going downhill when skiing uphill on trails.**
- **Let someone know where you are going.**
- On unplowed roadways used by snowmachines, keep to the right to avoid accidents.
- Most backcountry trails are marked for summer use. Orange metal markers attached to trees may be difficult to find in winter.
- Parties venturing into the backcountry should carry a USGS topographic map and a compass—and know how to use them.
- Even on a well-marked trail, it is easy to get lost in a whiteout or blizzard.
- Only skiers thoroughly familiar with the area should attempt off-trail travel.
- When planning your trip, get specific information on conditions at a ranger station or visitor center.
- Elevations range from 6,000 to 10,000 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 known for its unpredictability and sudden changes. Obtain information on current weather conditions and forecasts at visitor centers or ranger stations. Be prepared for a range of conditions, especially if you will be out for several hours or overnight. Know the locations of warming huts and phones (see the map on the back page). Plan your trip carefully and follow your plan.

Avalanches

- **Avalanches** are possible on hillsides or in canyons with slopes of 25–45°.
- Slides occur most frequently after heavy snowstorms or during warm periods.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

For Snowmobilers

- **Travel in groups;** emergencies are more easily handled than if you are alone.
- **Dress for extreme cold.** Items essential for snowmobilers include: 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 on your machine. 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, 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.

Winter Activities

Winter 2000/2001

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.

Visitor Centers and Warming Huts

Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth

Daily, year-round. Winter hours: 9 AM–5 PM. Information, bookstore, and exhibits on wildlife, early history, exploration, and establishment of the park. 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 11, 9 AM–5 PM. Information, bookstore, and geyser eruption predictions. A short movie on thermal life is shown throughout the day. Call 307-545-2750.

Warming Huts

Mammoth

Dec. 18–Mar. 4
8 AM–5 PM
Vending machine snacks and cold drinks are available.

Old Faithful

Dec. 18–Mar. 11
Daytime only
Vending machine snacks are available.

Madison

Dec. 18–Mar. 11
24 hours daily
Light snacks and hot drinks sold during the day; vending machine snacks available any time.

Indian Creek

Dec. 18–Mar. 4
24 hours daily

Fishing Bridge

Dec. 18–Mar. 11
24 hours daily
Vending machine snacks and cold drinks available.

Canyon

Dec. 18–Mar. 11
24 hours daily
Light snacks and hot drinks sold during the day; vending machine snacks available any time.

West Thumb

Dec. 18–Mar. 11
24 hours daily

The New Visitor Education Center at Old Faithful

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Yellowstone National Park has launched an initiative to build a new Visitor Education Center at Old Faithful. A \$1.25 million grant from Unilever Home & Personal Care–USA began the funding initiative, followed by a gift of \$250,000 from Wallace and Mary Lee Dayton and a pledge of \$3 million from Cheng and Shalin Wu. The Yellowstone Park Foundation is leading this fundraising effort with assistance from the National Park Foundation and the Yellowstone Association. Other public-spirited corporations, foundations, and individuals have also joined the effort to raise at least \$15 million for the Center.

Old Faithful Geyser is a landmark of worldwide renown and is visited by more than 85% of the 3.1 million people who come to Yellowstone each year. On peak days during July and August, more than 25,000 visitors are awaiting eruptions of Old Faithful and exploring the geyser basin, which contains the world's greatest concentration of geysers. Unfortunately, visitor needs for information, orientation, and educational services at Old Faithful are not being met. The existing visitor center is too small, contains no interpretive exhibits, and the auditorium lacks sufficient seating for the numbers of visitors wanting to see films. As a result, visitors often leave the Upper Geyser Basin area without understanding its unique, fragile, and priceless natural resources.

For years the National Park Service has recognized the need for a new visitor center at Old Faithful, but more pressing problems (deteriorating roads, failing sewer systems) have taken precedence. Donated funds will allow planning to begin. The facility will fit into the historic landscape, and will be larger, fully accessible, energy efficient, of sustainable design, and built with environmentally friendly construction materials and techniques. In the 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 wish to contribute to the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center initiative, please contact the Yellowstone Park Foundation: 406-586-6303; 37 East Main, Suite 4, Bozeman, MT 59715; www.ypf.org

Self-Guiding Trails

Mammoth Hot Springs

Visitors marvel at the surreal appearance of these travertine terraces. As an early visitor described them: "The hot springs fall over a lofty hill of snowy whiteness, resembling cascades." The trail winds through the area. You can also explore Upper Terrace Drive on snowshoes or skis.

Fort Yellowstone Historic Trail

Most of the buildings constructed in Mammoth during the time that the U.S. Army managed the park (1886–1918) are now used by the National Park Service as its headquarters.

Norris Geyser Basin

Explore the hottest, most dynamic geyser basin in the park. Porcelain Basin features hundreds of geothermal features in an open area; Back Basin trail winds through more forested terrain past a number of springs and geysers. Steamboat, the world's tallest geyser, erupted in May 2000—its first eruption since October 1991.

Fountain Paint Pot

Active, ever-changing mudpots; constant geysers; hissing fumaroles; and colorful, boiling hot springs await you on this trail and on Firehole Lake Drive. Located 8 miles (12.9 km) north of Old Faithful on the road to Madison Junction.

Upper Geyser Basin

The world's largest concentration of geysers is located here, including Old Faithful. View that famous feature, then walk the trails that wind past hundreds of geysers and hot springs. Names such as Beehive, Grotto, Castle, Riverside, and Morning Glory hint at the wonders you will see.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

The Canyon and the Upper and Lower Falls can be seen from overlooks along the rims, which you can reach by skis or snowmobile. See for yourself why viewpoints are named Inspiration, Grandview, and Artist Point.

West Thumb Geyser Basin

Thermal features boil and steam on the shore of ice-locked Yellowstone Lake. Across the expanse of white, the Absaroka Mountains rise. Look for otters fishing in ice holes. **Lake ice is thin and hazardous—do not venture out onto it.**

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.

Safety & Courtesy Tips

Yellowstone's thermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. The crust surrounding them is thin and breaks easily, and often overlies more scalding water. If you break through crust or accidentally fall into a pool, you may die.

- **You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails.** They exist to protect you and the delicate formations.
- Pets are prohibited in thermal areas.
- Thermal features are easily damaged by objects tossed into them; please do not litter.
- Adapt your pace to winter conditions; trails may be icy and snowpacked, so walk with caution.
- Do not walk or snowshoe in ski tracks. Your careless steps create hazards for skiers.
- Do not disturb wildlife.

Ranger-Led Programs

Winter 2000/2001

Mammoth Hot Springs

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visitor Center <i>Open Daily</i>	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 Walk <i>Starts December 26; ends March 2</i> Experience Yellowstone's winter beauty with a park ranger and learn about the diversity of life in this season as you silently traverse the snow. Please sign up for the walk by calling 307-344-2263 or stopping by Albright Visitor Center. A limited number of snowshoes will be available for free or they can be rented from the Mammoth Ski Hut. Come prepared with warm, layered clothes, sunglasses and water. Beginners welcome! <i>1-1/2 to 2 hours.</i>			1:30 PM			1:30 PM	
Winter Wildlife Tour <i>Starts December 27; ends February 28</i> Join a park ranger on this narrated bus tour of Yellowstone's Northern Range, which is important winter habitat for many species. Dress warmly. A limited number of binoculars and spotting scopes are provided. Meet at the Mammoth Hotel Lobby. Reservations for the tour should be made in advance with Yellowstone National Park Lodges at 307-344-7311. <i>3 hours.</i>				1 PM			
Evening Program <i>Starts December 22; ends March 3</i> Enjoy learning more about this wonderland called Yellowstone National Park through illustrated programs. Topics vary and will cover subjects such as winter wildlife survival and the geologic wonders of Yellowstone. Check at Albright Visitor Center or the Mammoth Hotel for program descriptions. Meet in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. <i>1 hour. Accessible.</i>					8:30 PM	8:30 PM	8:30 PM

Old Faithful

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visitor Center <i>Open Daily, 12/18/00-3/11/01</i>	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
Evening Program <i>Starts December 20; ends March 10</i> Join a park ranger for an illustrated slide program that highlights 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>1 hour. Accessible</i>				7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM

West Yellowstone

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snowshoe Walk <i>Starts December 27; ends March 10</i> 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 and Canyon avenues, 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	1:30 PM	1:30 PM

Winter in Yellowstone

Winter 2000/2001

Yellowstone National Park Lodges

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SNOWCOACH TOURS							
Full and half-day interpretive tours in heated oversnow vehicles. Serving Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, West Yellowstone, and Flagg Ranch.							
From West Yellowstone to Old Faithful: \$42.50	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM	9 AM–12 PM
From Old Faithful to West Yellowstone: \$42.50	2–5 PM	2–5 PM	2–5 PM	2–5 PM	2–5 PM	2–5 PM	2–5 PM
From Mammoth to Old Faithful: \$45.00	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM	8 AM–12 PM
From Old Faithful to Mammoth: \$45.00	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: \$47.50	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM	8–11:30 AM
From Flagg Ranch to Old Faithful: \$47.50	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM	12:15 PM–3:45 PM
Day trip from Old Faithful to Canyon, round trip: \$90	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
Day trip from Mammoth to Canyon, round trip: \$85	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	
DAY TOURS							
Winter Wildlife Tour , Mammoth Hotel only: \$19 Interpretive tour to Lamar Valley via bus or van				1–4 PM			
Daybreak Tour , Mammoth Hotel only: \$21 Tour to Lamar Valley via van or bus, with continental breakfast							7–10:30 AM
Firehole River Wildlife Tour , Old Faithful only: \$21 Guided snowcoach tour	1–4 PM		1–4 PM			1–4 PM	
West Thumb Geyser Basin Tour , Old Faithful only: \$21 Guided snowcoach tour		1–4 PM			1–4 PM		
SKI AND SNOWSHOE TOURS							
Grand Canyon Ski Tour , from Old Faithful: \$92			8 AM–6 PM			8 AM–6 PM	
Grand Canyon Ski Tour , from Mammoth: \$92				8 AM–6 PM			8 AM–6 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddle , Old Faithful to Fairy Falls: \$32.50							1–5 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddle , Old Faithful to DeLacey Creek: \$32.50				1–5 PM			
Cooke City See and Ski , from Mammoth: \$55			8:30 AM–5:30 PM			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		
EVENING PROGRAMS							
Slide shows and talks 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

Yellowstone's Historic Snowshoe Cabins

Visitors venturing into Yellowstone's remote backcountry may find small cabins scattered through the park. These buildings represent Yellowstone's colorful past, and they are still used by rangers today on backcountry patrols. The history of the cabins dates to the very beginnings of the park.

In 1886, the U.S. Army arrived in Yellowstone to assume the role of managing and protecting the park. The army quickly realized that it could not meet its responsibility from its Mammoth Hot Springs headquarters and assigned detachments to various locations throughout the park. These troops protected

the park from poachers and vandals, while enforcing campfire, fishing, and firearms regulations.

Poachers often built shelters and cached supplies in the park, returning to them during the winter. To deter the poachers, the army began sending out winter patrols. Yellowstone's harsh winter conditions necessitated shelter for soldiers during their patrols, and construction began on a system of cabins. The first six cabins were erected in the fall of 1890, and were called "snowshoe" cabins after the long Norwegian skis then in use. The cabins were located a day's ski apart (about ten miles). Without modern equipment like radios to call for help, patrolling soldiers' survival depended upon their wilderness skills and the protection that the isolated cabins afforded.

Most of the cabins were "one-room, rough log cabins, 12 x 16 feet in size," with gable end doors and extended roofs characteristic of the Rocky Mountain style log cabin. Construction of the cabins in such remote locations required maximum use of locally available materials, and, with the exception of the windows, roofing, and lumber for the door and shutters, building materials were obtained onsite. Doors and window shutters were "made of 2-inch plank to provide protection from bears." To add to the comforts of the patrolling rangers, cabins were furnished with ample food, "a good supply of china and silverware," small aluminum stew kettles, and bake pans.

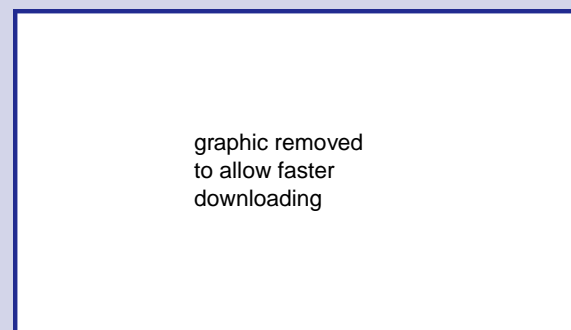


Photo courtesy of the Yellowstone Park Archives

After the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, the design of all park buildings received the attention of professional landscape architects. The park's snowshoe cabins, though remotely located and seldom seen by park visitors, were no exception. Designers sought to build cabins that had an "old time log cabin effect" and harmonized with their natural setting. Eventually, the park adopted a standardized plan that was used up until World War II.

Yellowstone's historic snowshoe cabins continue to be maintained and used by park rangers, mostly for backcountry patrols. The cabins are important reminders of the soldiers and rangers that dedicated themselves to protecting this special place, as well as a vital piece of today's backcountry management.

by Lon Johnson, YNP Branch of Cultural Resources

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Photo courtesy of the Yellowstone Park Archives

Other Programs

Winter 2000/2001

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. Throughout the year, the Institute offers more than 125 short courses on the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone. Winter courses are based at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch field campus and at park hotels.

The Lamar field campus is located along the plowed road between Tower and Cooke City. This facility includes heated guest cabins and a common building with classrooms, showers, and kitchen. The following courses are scheduled this winter:

December

2-3 Wilderness First Aid

January

12-15 Snowshoeing in Yellowstone

19-21 Snow Tracking

26-28 Winter on a Sliver

February

1-4 Exploring the Yellowstone

10-12 Weather Cycles in the Big Sky

13-15 Exploring Yellowstone on Snowshoes

16-18 Exploring Yellowstone's Winter World on Skis

23-25 Wolf Watching in Yellowstone

March

7-9 Coyote & Raven—Fact & Fiction

12-13 The Sly Fox

16-18 Yellowstone's Wolves

23-26 Wildlife Observation: Winter

The Institute also offers "Lodging and Learning" packages in cooperation with Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Participants tour the park with an Institute naturalist and enjoy comfortable accommodations at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. The following packages are scheduled this winter:

"Wonderland"

- A comprehensive overview of Yellowstone in winter
- 3 nights at Mammoth and 2 nights at Old Faithful
- Sunday-Friday from Jan. 7 to March 2

"Secret Snowscapes"

- Skiing, snowshoeing, and wildlife viewing for active visitors.
- 4 nights at Mammoth
- Sunday-Thursday from Jan 7 to March 1

"Winter Wolf Discovery"

- Wildlife viewing in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley
- 2 nights at Mammoth
- Wednesday-Friday and Friday-Saturday from Jan. 3 to March 2

Complete information on all of the above programs is available at www.YellowstoneAssociation.org

For "Lodging and Learning" reservations, please call Yellowstone National Park Lodges at 307-344-5566.

For all education programs listed above, call the Yellowstone Association Institute at 307-344-2294 or write P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

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Photo courtesy of the Yellowstone Association

Concessioner Activities

Yellowstone National Park Lodges is offering Winter Getaway packages, which make it easier to enjoy the park under its frosty cover. All Mammoth packages include a 1-hour hot tub rental and unlimited ice-skating. All Old Faithful packages include round-trip snowcoach transportation per person. Plus, each of the following packages include 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!

Frosty Fun Package— at Old Faithful or Mammoth

2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts per person, welcome gift and a Snow Card.
Mammoth: \$89 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$152 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful: \$189 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$289 Single Occupancy

Nordic Heaven— at Old Faithful or Mammoth

2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts per person, welcome gift and a Snow Card.
Plus: 1-day ski rental and ski drop per person

Mammoth: \$109 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$172 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful: \$209 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$309 Single Occupancy

Snomo-Deal— at Old Faithful or Mammoth

2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts per person, welcome gift and a Snow Card.
Plus: 1-day snowmobile rental (1 machine) and clothing package
Mammoth: \$149 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$272 Single Occupancy
Old Faithful: \$249 Per Person Double Occupancy; \$409 Single Occupancy
Extra snowmobile: \$120 additional

For information and reservations: Inquire at one of our hotel front desks, call 307-344-7311, or visit our website at www.TravelYellowstone.com

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NPS photo/Jim Pecco

Wildlife in Winter

Winter 2000/2001

Winter is the season of greatest stress to all living things. For many animals, it is the time of dying. The very old, very young, and those weakened by injury or illness are at a disadvantage when it is extremely difficult to find food. Even animals in good condition cannot endure repeated stress without depleting energy reserves; soon, survival is at stake. 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.

How They Survive

Yellowstone's wildlife live in an environment characterized by long winters that range in severity of temperatures and snowfall depending on location. Each species has adapted to these conditions in its own way:

- Many bird species leave the park and move to lower and/or distant areas for the winter. Bald eagles move *in* to the park to fish its open waterways.
- Grizzly and black bears spend the fall gorging themselves on high-fat foods in preparation for entering their winter dens, where they will "sleep" or hibernate through the adverse conditions. During warm spells, they may emerge to hunt.
- Marmots, ground squirrels, and chipmunks also hibernate.
- Between 12,000 and 20,000 elk winter in the park, mainly in the northern portion where the elevation is lower and snowfall and temperatures are more moderate. As many as 800 elk spend the winter among the thermal basins in the Firehole Valley, taking advantage of exposed vegetation and the warm ground and open waterways.
- Moose often move up to as high as 8,500 feet during the winter where they browse on subalpine fir and Douglas-fir. In the thick fir stands, less snow builds up on the ground and it's usually less crusty—this enables the long-legged moose to move more easily.
- Some ravens remain in the park year-round. They often follow wolves, bears, or herds of elk, awaiting a chance to feed on a carcass left from winter kill or a predator's successful hunt.

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NPS photo/Mark Marschall

Habituation Spells Disaster

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NPS photo/Jim Peaco

Do you think that placid elk beside the road is safe to approach? Feel like feeding a raven that approaches your snowmobile? Think again. Wildlife in Yellowstone may appear highly 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 vehicles 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 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.

Where to Watch Wildlife

Yellowstone National Park is home to one of the greatest concentrations of free-roaming, large mammals in the lower 48 states. With the restoration of the gray wolf, the variety of species found here now includes all those large mammals present when Euro-Americans first arrived here.

Habitat preferences and seasonal cycles of movement determine, in a general sense, where a particular animal may be at a particular time. In winter, look for wildlife wherever you see open water and thermal activity.

Grizzly bears: May emerge from hibernation on warm days, and in late winter. Look in the open meadows of the Lamar and Hayden valleys, Lake and Fishing Bridge areas. Also look along the road to the East Entrance. Backcountry travelers should be alert for bears at all times.

Black bears: May emerge from hibernation on warm days, and in late winter. Look along the roads from Mammoth to Tower and the Northeast Entrance, and in the Old Faithful, Madison, and Canyon areas.

Wolves: Most active at dawn and dusk; most often seen in the open areas along the Lamar River and Soda Butte Creek; seen occasionally in the Hayden and Firehole valleys.

Elk: Look around Mammoth Hot Springs, Lamar Valley, Hayden Valley, and the Firehole Valley.

Pronghorn: Look in the grasslands near the North Entrance.

Moose: In the winter, moose often move up to higher elevations. Look for them around stands of conifer trees above 8500 feet.

Mountain Lion: Rare sightings occur at night, especially along the road to the Northeast Entrance.

Bighorn Sheep: Look on cliffs along the Gardner River and between Calcite Springs and Tower Fall.

Beaver: May be seen early mornings and evenings in open water such as at Willow Park.

Otter: Look along the Lamar and Yellowstone rivers, and Yellowstone Lake.

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.

Issues in Yellowstone

Winter 2000/2001

A New Perspective for Winter Visitors

Many of Yellowstone's visitors and employees consider winter to be their favorite season. Wildlife is more visible; the scenery is spectacular covered with snow; and thousands of thermal features are at their most dramatic, wreathed in delicate ice formations and billowing steam.

We hope your visit is safe and memorable, and that Yellowstone lives up to your expectations. But while you are here, we would like you to think about a vexing dilemma we all face. The focus of our concerns revolves around the extraordinary wonders we all enjoy and their need for special consideration in the winter.

For all its beauty, winter is a time of extreme hardship for much of Yellowstone's wildlife. Winter controls the size of many animal populations, and those populations have evolved to survive in an extreme environment.

But human use of the park has skyrocketed in the past 20 years, and though we humans try very hard to use the land lightly, we have many effects that we only now are beginning to understand. As well, we have effects on each other; the more people there are, the less each person can be assured of the quality experience for which Yellowstone is so famous.

We have been working on the winter use issue since the early 1990s, and we have been preparing a new winter use plan since late 1997. Working with the U.S. Forest Service and eight other state and local cooperating agencies, the National Park Service produced a *Winter Use Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway*. This document, which analyzes a range of seven alternatives, was released to the public October 10, 2000, followed by a 30-day no-action period. The National Park Service accepted written comments on the document until October 31, 2000. We expect the Record of Decision (the final decision document) to be signed in mid-November 2000 by the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director.

Winter Use Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway proposes an alternative that provides public access to the national parks via snowcoaches only beginning in the winter of 2003-2004. Recreational use of snowmobiles by the public would not be allowed because the adverse effects of snowmobile use on air quality, natural sound, wildlife and safety are impairing park resources and the visitors' ability to enjoy those resources.

We recognize that this change will affect the short-term economies of communities, especially those nearest the parks. The National Park Service is committed to working with the local communities to help them adjust as easily as possible to this method of accessing Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks. We envision helping the states, counties, communities, non-governmental organizations, and businesses develop a new marketing plan for the two national parks in the winter. Perhaps, working together, we can realize new opportunities for economic development that will help us preserve Yellowstone National Park unimpaired for future generations.

As we approach making a decision about winter use, we are offered a chance to gain a new perspective on Yellowstone's winter season—one where each visitor, not just the backcountry venturer, has the opportunity to enjoy the natural sounds of geysers erupting, mudpots bubbling, bison snorting, wolves howling, rivers flowing, and quietness.

This article was written in late October 2000. If you would like current information about the winter use planning issue, please ask a park ranger at any of the warming huts or visitor centers in the parks. Or when you return home, please write us at: Winter Use, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/yell/technical/planning/winteruse/plan/index.htm

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NPS photo/Jim Peaco

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Bison in Yellowstone

Wild, free-ranging bison have been a part of the Yellowstone landscape since pre-historic times. Primarily because of poaching and market hunting, the bison population declined until just after the turn of the 19th century when less than 50 bison existed in Yellowstone National Park.

Today, the Yellowstone bison population numbers about 3,000. Maintaining a wild, inherently nomadic bison herd can present problems. Bison are wildlife and do not recognize political boundaries and sometimes move to adjacent public and private land, especially during the winter. Increased numbers of bison, weather conditions, and human activities all affect distribution of animals.

Early in this century, bison were exposed to the disease brucellosis, probably a result of contact with domestic livestock. While no documented case exists of wild, free-ranging bison from Yellowstone transmitting brucellosis to domestic cattle, the small risk of transmission concerns the livestock industry.

One of several important objectives of the National Park Service is to maintain the genetic integrity of the bison population. Another objective is to maintain and preserve the ecological function that bison provide in the Yellowstone area. Some of these functions can include maintaining appropriate numbers of bison to provide food for predators and winterkill bison for a wide array of scavengers. In addition, bison provide an important role as one of several ungulates that graze on Yellowstone's grasslands.

To address these issues, the federal government released in August 2000 the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Interagency Bison Management Plan for the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park*. The plan is designed to maintain the largest wild, free-ranging population of bison in the United States and address the risk of brucellosis transmission in order to

protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in the state of Montana. The federal agencies preferred alternative uses an adaptive management framework to reduce the unnecessary killing of bison and provide for separation of bison and cattle on public lands outside the park and further reduce the already very low risk of brucellosis transmission to cattle. Some bison would be tolerated on public lands during winter, up to 100 along the park's north boundary near Reese Creek and up to 100 along the west boundary of the park. The spring bison population limit would be approximately 3,000 animals and bison would be vaccinated once a safe and effective vaccine is available. Cattle would be vaccinated and monitored in specific areas near Yellowstone National Park. Techniques for bison management could include additional monitoring of bison on public lands outside the park, hazing bison onto appropriate public lands or back into the park in the spring to avoid lethal removal, and control of some bison on public lands outside the park through capture and slaughter or agency shooting.

The public comment period on the final environmental impact statement ended October 17, 2000. However, you can view a summary of the final environmental impact statement at the National Park Service website: www.nps.gov/planning or you can request a copy of the plan by calling the park at 307-344-2159.

Until the agencies sign a Record of Decision (the final decision document) in late 2000 and begin implementing the final plan, the agencies will continue to manage bison under an adjusted *Interim Bison Management Plan*, approved in August 1996 and adjusted in 1997. Copies of the interim plan are available from the Yellowstone Center for Resources, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

NPS photo/Jim Peaco

Friends of Yellowstone

Winter 2000/2001

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 do the very best we can to 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

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

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

- The Yellowstone Wolf Project, which tracks and monitors the habits, habitat needs, and ecological impacts of Yellowstone's new wolf packs;
- Areroute of the Pelican Valley Trail out of prime grizzly habitat, which significantly

reduces the possibility of potentially dangerous human/bear encounters;

- A new Visitor Education Center to replace the current visitor center at Old Faithful, which is too small to accommodate the more than three million people who visit Yellowstone each year.

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

Yellowstone needs your help, now more than ever. Donors of \$25 or more to the Yellowstone Park Foundation are listed in Yellowstone's Honor Book at Old Faithful for one year. Donors of \$1,000 or more receive special recognition on the Honor Wall for one year. Please help to preserve the beauty and wonder of the park by becoming a Friend of Yellowstone.

Yellowstone Association

Public appreciation and dedication have ensured Yellowstone's protection and preservation for more than 125 years. The non-profit Yellowstone Association has dedicated itself to fostering this critical public support through education since its founding in 1933 and, with the help of visitors like you, has provided funding of more than \$7,200,000 to Yellowstone National Park in support of educational, historical, and scientific projects.

How can you help?

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

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

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

Yes, make me a Friend of Yellowstone National Park!

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

Enclosed is a tax-deductible gift of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Charge to: MC Visa

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Make checks payable to The Yellowstone Park Foundation.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation

37 East Main, Suite 4
Bozeman, MT 59715 406-586-6303
or visit our website @ www.ypf.org

YES!

I want to help preserve Yellowstone through education.

To receive all the benefits of membership, visit any park visitor center or complete and mail this form with your dues to: The Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY82190.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Annual dues: Associate\$30 Patron\$250
 Contributing.....\$50 Sponsor\$500
 Sustaining\$100 Benefactor\$1,000

Make checks payable to The Yellowstone Association.

Charge to: _____ VISA _____ Mastercard _____ Discover

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ PNP

Services in the Park

Winter 2000/2001

Comprehensive Medical Care in a Wilderness Setting...

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 two weeks beginning the week of December 29 through the Snow Lodge Winter Season. Call Mammoth Clinic for specific information and appointments.

- Board-certified physicians
- Prompt personal, family, and emergency medical care
- For appointments, call 307-344-7965
- For emergencies, dial 911

Yellowstone Park Medical Services

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

Yellowstone Park Medical Services

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

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

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

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

For information on employment for the 2001 season (both professional and nonprofessional positions are available), send a resume to: Yellowstone Park Medical Services, 707 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414 or call 800-654-9447, ext. 462.

Cellular One

CellularOne is proud to offer service in Yellowstone!

Bozeman, MT 585-7524 • Livingston, MT 222-1800 • Cody, WY 527-7700

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NP's photo/Frank Walker

Hamilton Stores, Inc.

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

Mammoth General Store is open year-round to serve the traveling public and, for your convenience, is an authorized UPS shipping agent.

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

Hamilton Stores—Oldest Park Concessioner

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

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

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

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

Services in the Park

Winter 2000/2001

The Early Bird Gets the Worm

There is nothing quite like springtime in Yellowstone. The remaining patches of snow are melting, and Mother Nature is renewing. Under the sunshine and blue skies, everything seems shiny and new. Bison, deer and elk calves are born, and the bears yawn and stretch, and emerge out of hibernation looking for food. The wild flowers start to peek out of the greening ground. And our guests can enjoy Yellowstone's spring awakening while receiving GREATDEALS, with rooms and cabins starting at only \$29 (plus tax, single or double occupancy)!

Book an Early Bird Special by April 1st, and receive a discount of up to 50% off the regular rates!

**Think Ahead
to Spring!**

Below are some of the discounts being offered:

Old Faithful Inn, May 11-17
Historic room (without a private bathroom)—\$29
Hotel room—\$89-119

Old Faithful Snow Lodge, May 4-17
Lodge room—\$99

Grant Village, May 25-31
Rooms—\$69-\$79

Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, May 4-17
Cabin or Room (without private bathroom)—\$29
Frontier Cabin or Hotel Room—\$59

Lake Hotel, May 18-24
Hotel room—\$99-109

Book the Early Bird Special by calling Yellowstone National Park Lodges reservations at 307-344-7311 or visiting www.TravelYellowstone.com.

Visitors looking for reduced rates are also encouraged to visit our web site for occasional unadvertised internet specials.

Yellowstone National Park Lodges

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY: 911

Park Information: 307-344-7381

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

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

Montana Power Company

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 11 and at Mammoth Terraces December 18–March 4.

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 months. 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 20 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 travelling at night, 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.

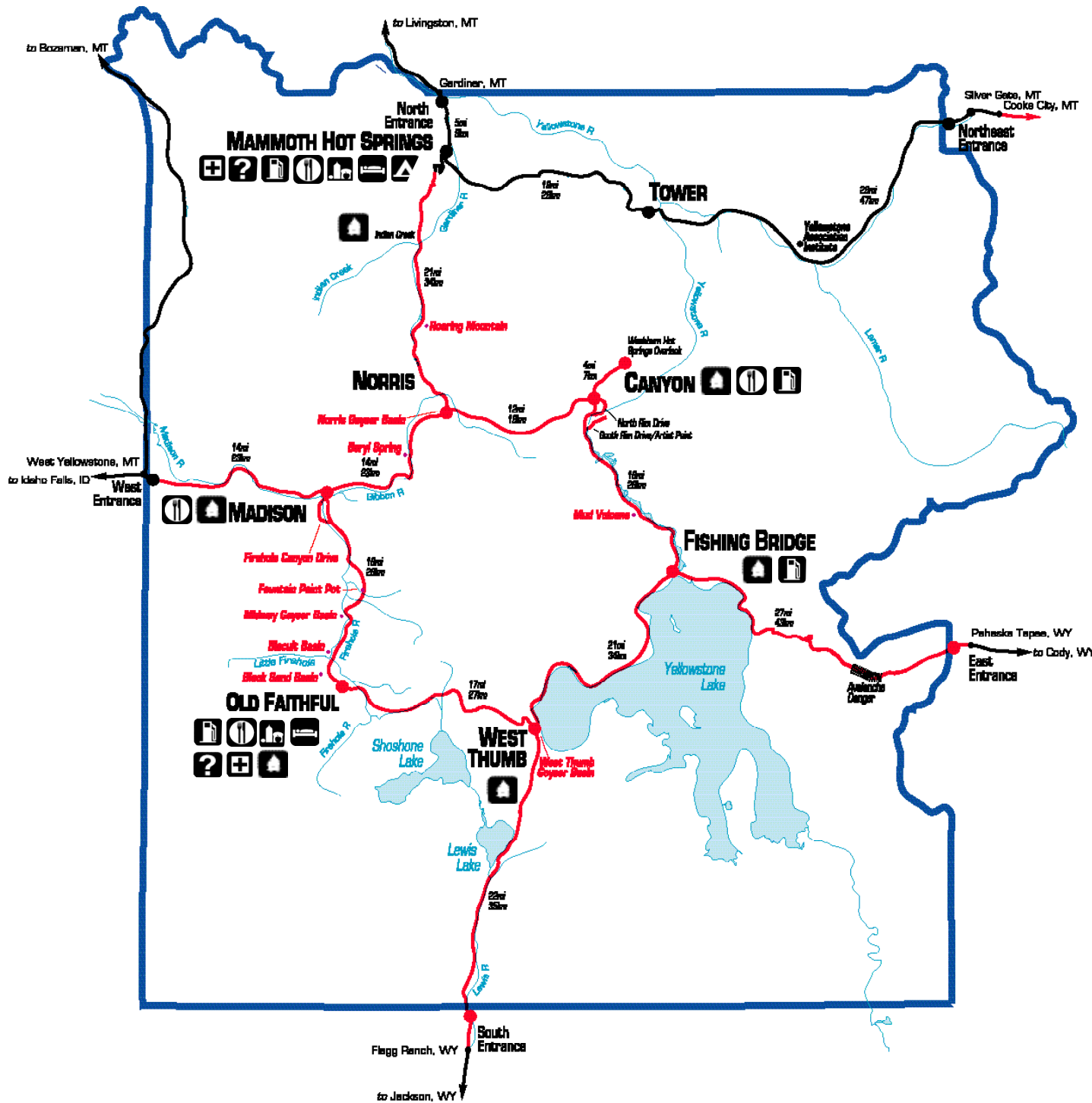
It is a privilege to be able to live and work here in the winter. All of us who do hope you enjoy your winter visit.

Yellowstone Roads and Facilities

Park Information: 307-344-7381

TDD: 307-344-2386

Emergency: dial 911



Spring Plowing Starts March 5

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

- March 5: Mammoth to Norris
- March 7: Madison to Norris to Canyon
- March 12: All other park roads close to oversnow traffic.

Roads close at 8 AM on the days listed.

Area Chambers of Commerce

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

<p>+ Clinics 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 beginning the week of December 29. Call the Mammoth Clinic for more information.</p> <p>? Visitor Centers Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round Old Faithful: Dec. 18–Mar. 12</p> <p>🛢️ Snowmobile Fuel Old Faithful, Canyon Junction, Fishing Bridge: Dec. 18–Mar. 11 Mammoth Hot Springs: Dec. 18–Mar. 4</p>	<p>🍴 Food service: Dining Rooms: Mammoth Hotel, Dec. 22–Mar. 4 Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Dec. 18–Mar. 11 Fast Foods: Old Faithful Snow Lodge–Geysers Grill, Dec. 18–Mar. 11 Light Lunches: Mammoth General Store, Open year-round Snack Bars: Madison and Canyon warming huts, Dec. 18–Mar. 11</p> <p>🏪 General Store Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round</p>	<p>🛏️ Lodging Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel: Dec. 22–Mar. 4 Old Faithful Snow Lodge: Dec. 18–Mar. 11</p> <p>🏕️ Campground Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year-round</p> <p>🏠 Warming Huts Dec. 18–early March Mammoth, Indian Creek, Madison Junction, Old Faithful, West Thumb, Fishing Bridge, Canyon</p>
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Groomed snowmobile 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.