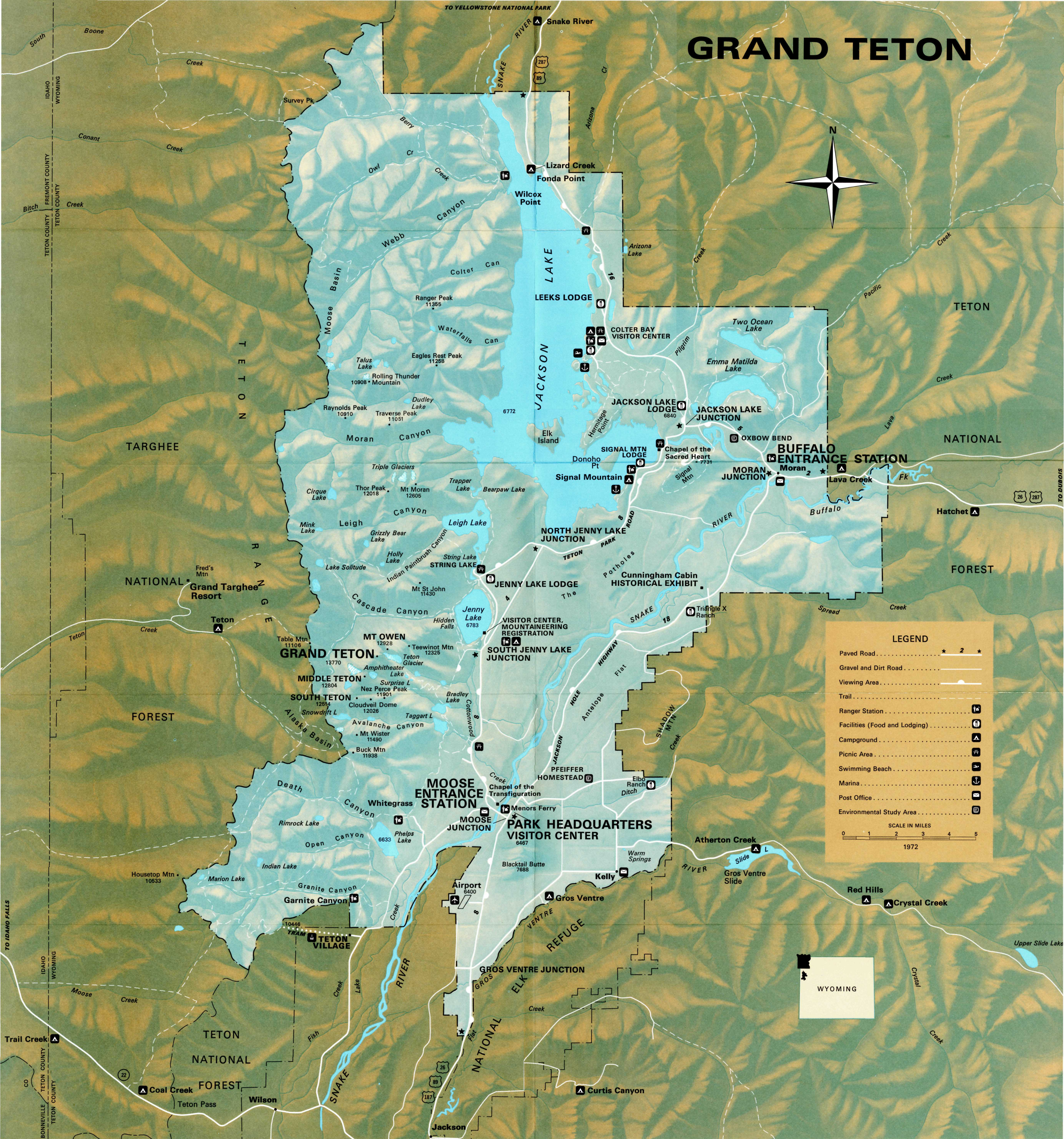


# GRAND TETON



**Grand Teton National Park**  
 Few horizons have inspired man as has the massively rugged, magnificent skyline of Grand Teton National Park. Seen from the floor of Jackson Hole, the wind- and ice-carved horns, knife-edged ridges, and cirques challenge the adventurous and evoke wonder in all.

We do not know how this mountainscape may have affected the minds and hearts of the first men who gazed upon it some 9,000 years ago. According to an early trapper, the Shoshone Indian name for the snowfield- and glacier-bedecked peaks meant "hoary-headed fathers." French-speaking fur trappers who followed the intrepid John Colter into the Teton and Yellowstone country in the early decades of the 19th century named the most impressive group of peaks *Les Trois Tétons* (the three breasts). The valley 7,000 feet below was named Jackson Hole, for trapper David Jackson.

The floor of the valley is relatively flat, having been partly filled by glacial and other rock debris eroded from the mountains. You can see much of this valley fill exposed where the Snake River has carved a winding course through the upper-level deposits. Jackson, Leigh, Jenny, Two Ocean, and Emma Matilda are the largest of many sparkling morainal lakes in the valley. Completing the panorama of nature in Grand Teton are the higher glacial lakes, small but active glaciers, extensive forests, and an array of wild animals unsurpassed in any park of comparable size.

How is it that these majestic, craggy, blue-gray mountains and the lake-strewn valley over which they tower have become part of the National Park System? Unlike the Yellowstone wilderness, they were not secured for posterity before the intrusion of settlement and exploitation.

The trapper brigades, having cleaned out the beavers, disappeared in mid-19th

century. Later the homesteaders came to try their hand at wresting a living from this rugged land. Then with the railroad came dude ranching—and Easterners who saw here a unique potential for outdoor recreation amidst scenic splendor. In the 1920's John D. Rockefeller, Jr., began buying land at the foot of the range, thus slowing the pace of commercial development in Jackson Hole.

In 1929, lands embracing the major peaks were set aside by Congress as the embryonic Grand Teton National Park. Despite vigorous opposition, a move to expand the park onto the valley floor gained impetus. In 1950 the present national park, including lands donated by Rockefeller, was established, assuring that future generations would be able to see these unspoiled mountains mirrored in Jackson Lake or to look down on the picturesque valley from their heights.

**Maps**  
 Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

**National Parks Centennial 1872-1972**





# YELLOWSTONE



**Yellowstone National Park**  
*"We had within a distance of fifty miles seen what we believed to be the greatest wonders on our continent . . . Judge, then, of our astonishment on entering this basin, to see at no great distance before us an immense body of sparkling water, projected suddenly and with terrific force into the air to a height of over one hundred feet. We had found a real geyser. . . ."*  
 Thus wrote Nathaniel P. Langford, a leading citizen of the new Territory of Montana a century ago, upon seeing the land at the headwaters of the "Rock Yellow River." This vast, varied wilderness in northwestern Wyoming Territory was awe-inspiring not only in its array of thermal phenomena, but also in its looming mountain ranges, rushing rivers, endless forests, colorful canyons, and teeming wildlife. Upon returning from their 1870 expedition into this land of

mystery and wonder, Langford and his companions set in motion the chain of events that was to lead to the establishment of the world's first national park.  
 Yellowstone is no longer a land of mystery, for scientists have revealed many of its secrets, and millions of visitors have become familiar with its landscapes. But it remains a wondrous realm of geological marvels, where, in writer Freeman Tilden's words, one can have the "shocking but joyous adventure of putting your boot soles closer to the interior fires of the earth than you can do at any other spots on the globe save . . . Iceland and New Zealand. . . ."  
 Yellowstone is still, too, an unparalleled wildlife sanctuary, despite a century during which the park's growing popularity as a vacation area has meant ever-increasing pressure upon the animals and their habitat. But Yellowstone is more than a spectacle of volcanism and erosive forces, more than a parade of wild birds and beasts, more

than a scenically splendid landscape. It is a monument to the small band of idealists who had the courage and the conviction to demand that a hustling, growing nation of pioneers and exploiters set aside 2 million acres of the public domain to be kept intact and natural for the enjoyment of future generations. The new park was to be, according to the enabling legislation, a "pleasuring-ground" for the Nation.  
 The meaning of Yellowstone today far transcends its values for "pleasuring." An increasing number of Americans, wearied by the pace of life in the city and beset by its noise, smells, and ugliness, are turning to Yellowstone and other national parks for respite. Here they can slow down, refresh mind and body, and restore the spirit. Here they can reestablish their ties with mother earth. Here society can reevaluate its damaged partnership with nature.



**Administration**  
 Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks are administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

National Park Service  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**The National Parks Centennial**  
 Congress has designated 1972 as National Parks Centennial Year and has established a National Parks Centennial Commission to celebrate the beginning of the National Park idea with appropriate ceremonies, culminating in the Second World Conference on National Parks.  
 This international conference will be held in September 1972 in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Delegates representing many countries will examine the role of parks in a time of deepening environmental crisis and will look for ways to strengthen and extend the national park idea throughout the world.

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