

We're joining the metric world. The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to improve interpretation for park visitors from other nations.

Yellowstone National Park is a designated fee area under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, which provides for the charging of entrance fees and recreation use fees.

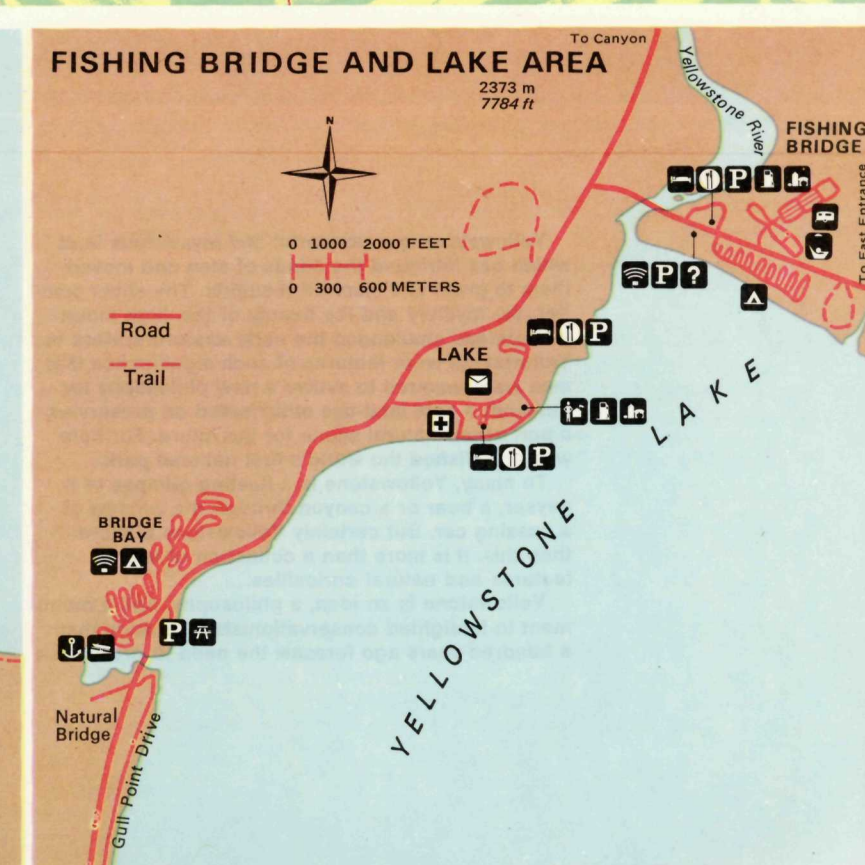
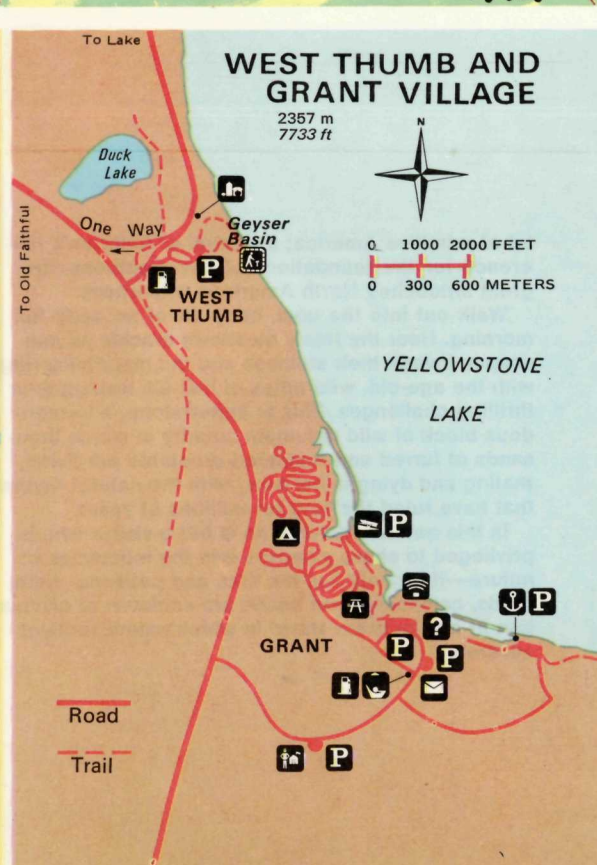
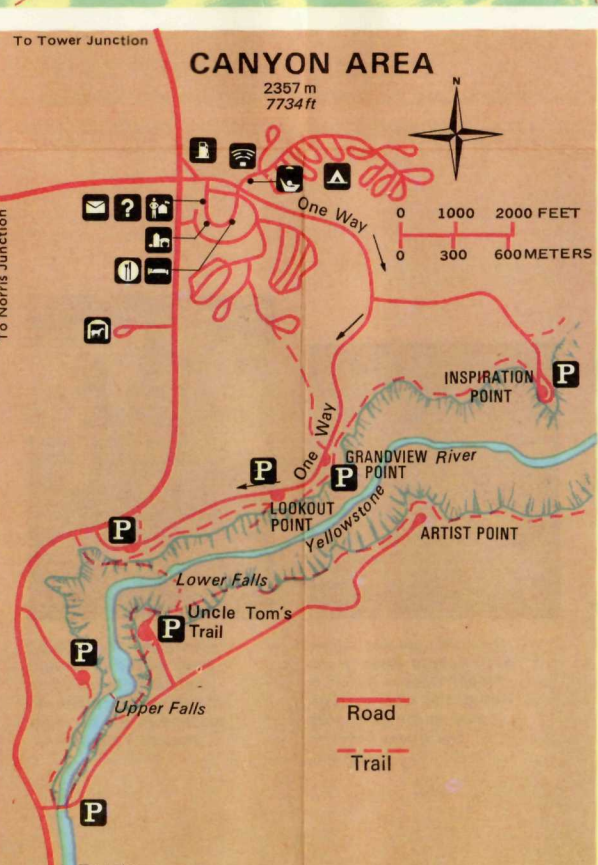
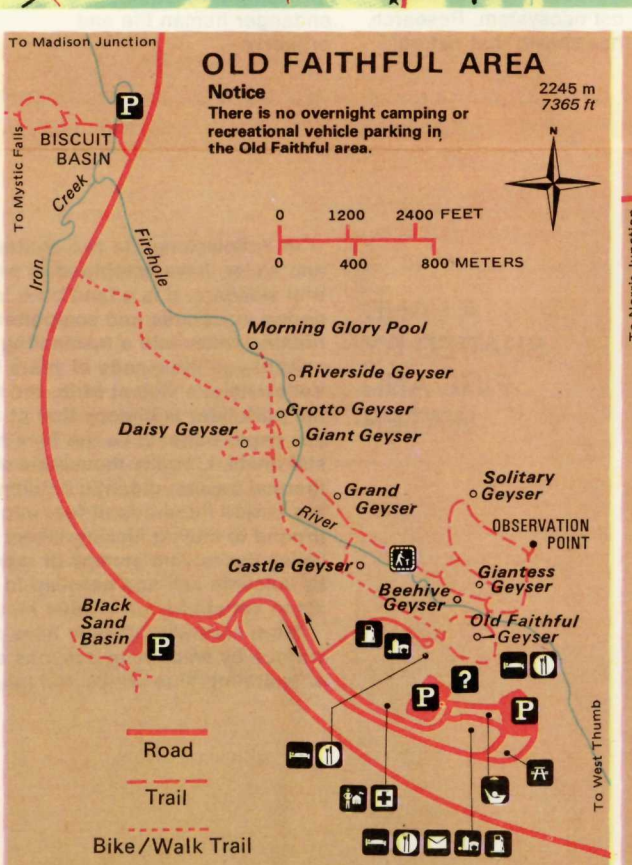
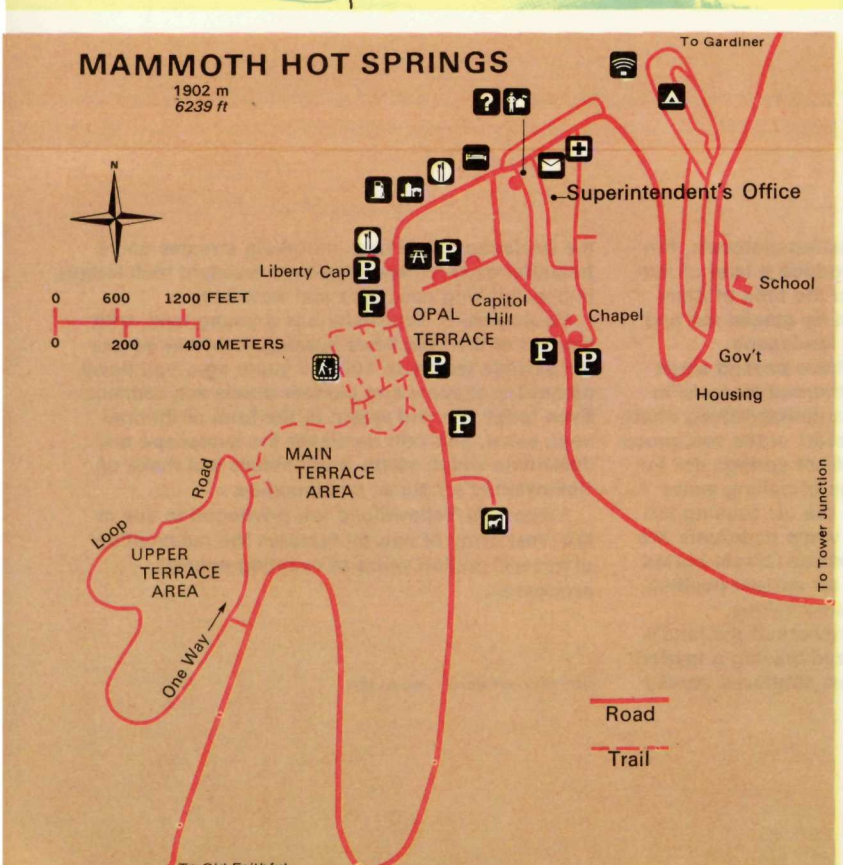
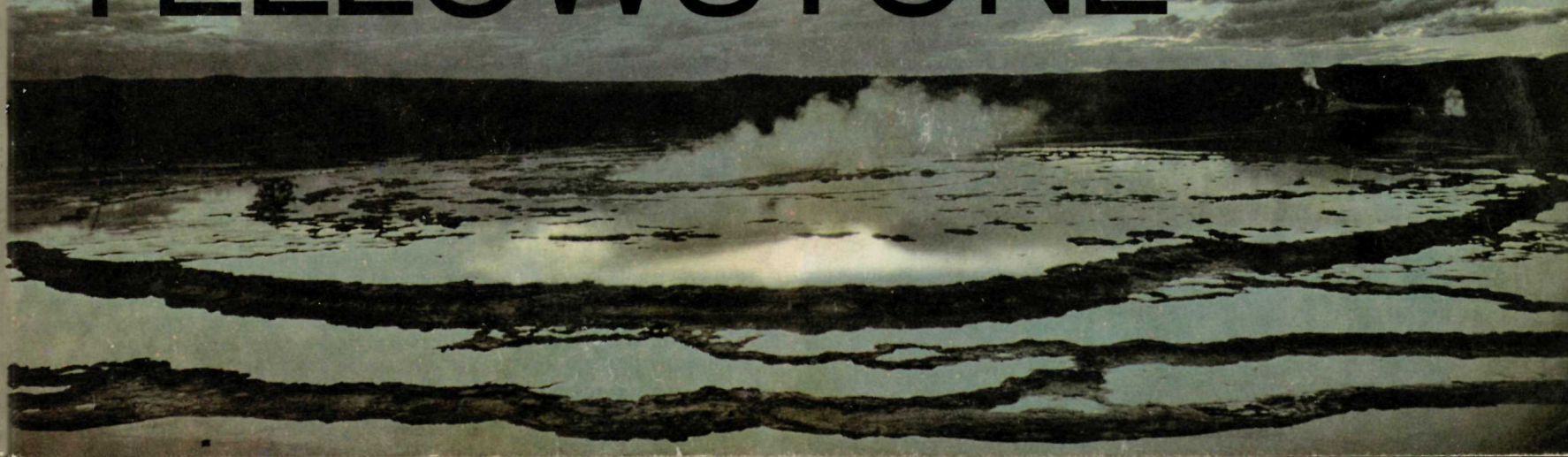
Yellowstone National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Great Fountain Geyser on the Firehole Lake Drive.

# YELLOWSTONE





## WHAT TO DO

The National Park Service hopes that visitor activities in Yellowstone will result in appreciation of America's wilderness heritage and in enjoyment of the area. Some of the more popular activities are listed below.

**Fishing.** In Yellowstone, grizzly, otter, osprey and other animals have first chance at catching fish for dinner. Fishing regulations have been de-

signed to permit visitors to enjoy angling for wild trout and yet not compete with these animals for food. Fishing regulations vary widely throughout the park. Some waters are closed to fishing; some are restricted to fly fishing, and others are catch-and-release only. Take-home limits for species, and size-and-number restrictions vary for different areas.



The special grandeur of the Hayden Valley derives from its combination of spacious meadows and wilderness rivers.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

Some special hazards in Yellowstone:

All park animals are wild and potentially dangerous. Do not get close to any animal. Watch large animals from your vehicle. Stop only in roadside pullouts, out of the traffic lane.

Boiling water may be close beneath the surface in thermal areas. Leaving designated pathways is unlawful, unsafe, and destructive to the thermal features.

Water temperatures in Yellowstone's lakes are low, averaging 4.4°C (41°F). Survival time in these waters is no more than 30 minutes.

Yellowstone's streams are cold, big, and fast. Be careful while fishing or wading. Swimming is not advised in park streams or lakes. Don't take chances! Steep slopes in the canyon areas often contain loose rocks and soil. Climbing the slopes is both dangerous and unlawful. Stay on designated trails.



A free permit is required. The permit and a copy of the regulations can be obtained at any visitor center or ranger station.

**Camping.** Limited camping is available all year; however, the majority of campgrounds are open only from mid-June to mid-September. The major campgrounds have normally been filled to

capacity by noon during the summer. Camping or overnight stopping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. When park campgrounds are full, camping visitors, including persons with self-contained recreational vehicles, must find facilities outside the park. Your stay in the park as a camper is limited to 14 days during the summer season and to 30 days at other times. Some campgrounds are restricted to hard-sided vehicles; check at a visitor center or ranger station for current information. Two campgrounds are available for organized groups and should be reserved by contacting the chief park ranger's office.

**Boating.** Yellowstone is a wilderness park. To preserve its essential qualities, power boating has been prohibited except on open areas of Yellowstone Lake, and on Lewis Lake. Boating is also prohibited on most streams and rivers, although hand-propelled boats are allowed in some areas. All boaters are required to have permits. Copies of boating regulations and permits are obtainable at ranger offices.

**Driving.** Yellowstone has nearly 500 kilometers (300 miles) of public roads. Most major features are adjacent to the Grand Loop Road; several one-way drives lead off the loop to areas of special interest.

Park roads are for leisurely driving only. The maximum speed limit is 72 kilometers per hour (45 mph) on the primary roads; other road speeds are as posted. Motor vehicles may be used on roads only and bicycles are restricted to roads and designated bicycle trails. Visitors may encounter snow and hazardous driving conditions during spring and fall, with temporary road closures.

**Horseback riding, stagecoach rides, boat and bus tours.** In summer, horses may be hired for short trips from Canyon, Tower-Roosevelt, or Mammoth. Arrangements can be made for extended trips by contacting the Yellowstone Park Company or any of the outfitters and guides neighboring the park. Stagecoach rides are run regularly from Roosevelt. Boat excursions leave Bridge Bay frequently each day during summer. Bus tours of the park are conducted from park hotels and lodges. There is a charge for each of these concessioner-operated activities.



**Hiking.** Trails—about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) of them—lead to remote parts of the park. Some offer easy part-day trips over gentle terrain; others require skill and endurance because of their elevation, length, and ruggedness. Most are marked with directional signs giving destinations and distances. Good topographic maps which can be purchased at any visitor center, are highly recommended. Always check trail conditions with a ranger before setting out on an overnight or long hike.

A free back-country use and fire permit is re-

quired for all back-country camping. If you plan to camp in the back country you must reserve a campsite. Back-country campsites may be reserved at any ranger station and some visitor centers upon your arrival in the park. Reservations must be made in person and cannot be made more than 24 hours in advance of the planned date of departure.

In bear country, noisy hikers are safest because they are least likely to surprise bears. A loud, continuous talker may be your best companion on the trail, if not in camp. It's a good idea to wear a bell or let a can of rattling pebbles dangle from your pack as you walk. If you see a bear, detour!

These regulations deserve special attention, and are enforced by park rangers:

Permits are required for fishing, boating, and back-country travel.

Pets are restricted to roadsides and parking areas, and must be kept leashed.

Picking wildflowers, littering, and removing or vandalizing park features are unlawful activities.

Swimming and bathing in thermal features are unlawful.

Firearms must never be carried or displayed. Except in those locations otherwise designated, all wheeled vehicles are restricted to roadways.

Fires must never be left unattended.

Violators will be bonded and taken before a resident U.S. Magistrate who is authorized to assess fines or imprisonment. Check with a ranger if you are unsure about any activity.

## Visitor Services

	Hotel	Cabin (economy-family-regular)	Amphitheater	Boat rental	Campground	Church services	Eating facility	Gasoline station	Grocery and curio store	Horse rental	Ice	Laundry (self-service)	Medical (hospital-clinic)	Photo shop	Post office	Propane service	Sewage dump station	Showers	Trailer park with utilities (fee)	Trailer park with utilities (no fee)	Winter accommodations			
Mammoth																								
Norris																								
Madison																								
Old Faithful																								
West Thumb																								
Grant																								
Bridge Bay																								
Lake																								
Fishing Bridge																								
Canyon																								
Tower-Roosevelt																								

Full service available mid-June to late August. Limited service available during spring and fall.

**Emergency Information.** Assistance for any emergency in the park can be obtained anytime by calling park headquarters (307) 344-7381.

**Medical Assistance**

Service	Hours	Phone
Lake Hospital	(Memorial Day-Labor Day)	242-7241
Mammoth Clinic	(May 1-Sept. 30)	344-7455
Old Faithful Dispensary	(May 1-Sept. 30)	545-7325

## INDIANS, MOUNTAIN MEN, AND EXPLORERS

The Yellowstone region has most likely been occupied or regularly visited by man since the retreat of the last period of glaciation. Although the harsh winters probably precluded year-round occupancy for prehistoric man, artifacts indicate that the area was visited extensively as a hunting ground. High-quality obsidian from Obsidian Cliff also attracted prehistoric man, who used it in making knives, lance points, arrowheads and ceremonial artifacts. Material from Obsidian Cliff was traded as far east as the Mount Builders of Ohio.

Modern Indians are known to have hunted in and passed through the area. The Bannock Trail was a main Indian thoroughfare used to cross the park to the plains in search of buffalo from about 1838 to 1878. The Bannock, Blackfoot, Flathead, Nez Perce, Utes, Crows, Shoshone, Piegans, and Paluties lived

in close proximity to the Yellowstone country and are known to have frequented the region. Only one group of Indians is known to have lived within the area of the park. This group of about 200 Shoshone Indians, known as the "Sheepstealers," was here from approximately 1800 to 1871.

During the three decades after the widely reported trip of mountain man John Colter through the Yellowstone country in the winter of 1807-08, fur traders occasionally passed through this remote region. The Montana gold rush again attracted attention to Yellowstone and in 1863 a party of 43 prospectors explored the region.

Tales by these trappers and prospectors prompted further exploration. In 1870, a group of Montanans, including Henry D. Washburn, N. P. Langford, and Lt. Gustavus Doane, visited the park. During this trip the idea of establishing a national park in the Yellowstone was discussed. One year later, in the summer of 1871, a Federal survey under the leadership of Dr. F. V. Hayden explored the area. A great amount of publicity followed, and on March 1, 1872, Yellowstone became the world's first national park.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICES

The following information is provided to assist you in planning your visit to Yellowstone:

**The park ranger.** The men and women in uniforms and broad-brimmed hats are park rangers. They are here to help you and to protect the park and its features. Their responsibilities include providing interpretive, police, and fire services. Contact any park ranger for information or assistance. Report all accidents, thefts, vandalism, lost-and-found items, etc., at the nearest visitor center or ranger station.

**The interpretive program.** Evening campfire programs, nature walks, and other activities are offered at most developed areas throughout the park during the main visitor season. The schedule of interpretive activities may be obtained from any visitor center or ranger station.

**Information by radio.** For information as you drive park roads, tune your car radio to 1806 whenever you see one of the many roadside radio signs. You will hear a short message pertinent to the area through which you are passing.

**Schedule of openings.** Between October 31 and May 1, park roads and entrances (except the North Entrance) are ordinarily closed by snow to auto traffic. Most park campgrounds do not open before June, except at Mammoth, where camping is available all year.

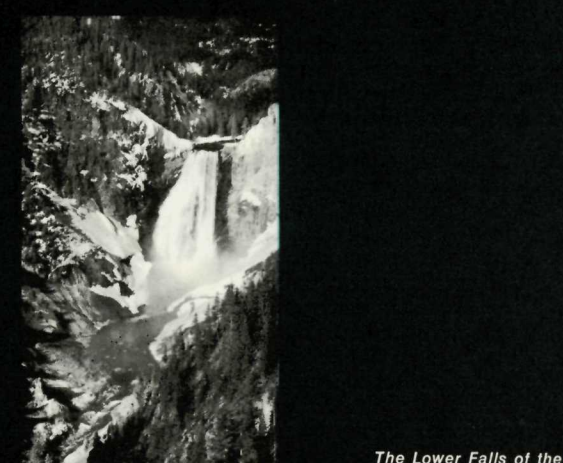
**Transportation.** Commercial airlines provide year-round service to Idaho Falls, Idaho; Bozeman, Mont.; Billings, Mont.; and Jackson, Wyo. Summer air service is available to West Yellowstone, Mont. Railroad passenger service is available to Billings, Livingston, and Bozeman, Mont.

Major bus lines serve Bozeman, Livingston, West Yellowstone and Billings, Mont.; and Cody and Jackson, Wyo. Yellowstone Park Company buses provide connecting service to Livingston, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone, Mont.; Jackson Lake Lodge, and internal bus service throughout the park.

**Where to stay.** Within Yellowstone are hotels, lodges, cabins, and the Fishing Bridge Trailer Village. These accommodations are open from mid-June to Labor Day. Limited accommodations are available off-season, with winter activities centering at Old Faithful. Reservations are advised, especially during July and August, and can be made by writing the Yellowstone Park Company, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. Those visitors already in Yellowstone may make advance room reservations anywhere in the park at any hotel or lodge (see visitor services chart, above).

**Adjacent facilities.** Recreational opportunities equal to the best in the Rockies are found in the four national forests bordering Yellowstone. Neighboring communities offer complete accommodations and services, and the south lies Grand Teton National Park, with many concessioner and Federal facilities.

**Winter use.** Deep snows and clouds of condensed vapor from thermal areas combine to give Yellowstone a unique winter beauty. In recent years, thou-



The Lower Falls of the Yellowstone.

sands of visitors have entered the park by snow vehicle. Heated oversnow vehicles are operated by concessioners from West Yellowstone, Mammoth, and South Entrance. Private snowmobiles may also use the unplowed roads, but no cross-country vehicle use is permitted. Ski and snowshoe touring are also on the increase. The Old Faithful Visitor Center is open during the winter from about mid-December to mid-March, providing information, evening programs, and winter walks. Meals and overnight rooms are available through the winter at Old Faithful. The only lodge open for auto traffic are Gardiner to Mammoth and from there to the Northeast Entrance and Cooke City. This drive offers an excellent opportunity to see wildlife. Special information on winter activities and services may be obtained by writing to the superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, and reservations for winter facilities may be made by writing to the Yellowstone Park Company. Reservations are advised, especially during the holidays.



Unexpected hues, sometimes bold but often delicate, pattern nearly all of Yellowstone's thermal areas. Colors like these at Grand Prismatic Spring, located in the Midway Geyser Basin, are caused by living micro-organisms that thrive in the hot water.

## WHERE TO FIND WILDLIFE

Elk, moose, deer, bison, antelope, and coyote are abundant in Yellowstone, but they are not found everywhere. Like people, they prefer to live in special places at certain times. Throughout the park they wander freely.

Your own chances of seeing wildlife will increase if you fit your schedule to theirs. Many a meadow is dotted with elk at dawn but empty when the sun beats down and insects force the animals into protective cover. At evening the elk again make their appearance.

Coyotes may hunt mice along the roadside when traffic is sparse, and waterfowl parade their young at dawn; but these and other shy creatures take cover as human activity increases. Moose may be seen most any time of the day, especially in the wetlands. Bison generally leave the more visited sections of the park for higher elevations by early June. A few older animals re-



Autumn brings elk (wapiti) into meadows to mate and feed against a background of vapor billowing into the cooling air.

A bull elk (wapiti) relaxes along a stream (left).

Some favorite summer viewing areas are as follows: The Hayden Valley between Fishing Bridge and Canyon, and Pelican Creek east of Fishing Bridge are prime moose territory. The Hayden Valley is also an area to watch for bison and grizzly. Waterfowl and gulls frequent the Yellowstone River in this valley. The Lamar Valley in the northeast section of the park is good territory for seeing elk, bison, moose, pronghorn, coyote, bighorn, and grizzly, especially during the winter months. Look for bighorn sheep on the cliffs between Mammoth and Gardiner, Montana.



The fringed gentian—Yellowstone's park flower.

Pronghorn may be sighted in the sagebrush flats surrounding the North Entrance.

In the meadows and forests along the road from Mammoth to Madison, elk are frequently seen.



Autumn brings elk (wapiti) into meadows to mate and feed against a background of vapor billowing into the cooling air.

A bull elk (wapiti) relaxes along a stream (left).

The Midway and Upper Geyser Basins are also good areas to find elk and occasionally see bison. Near the South Entrance, elk and moose frequent the forests and wetlands along the Lewis River. Old Faithful, Lake, Canyon, and the areas between the North Entrance and Tower are good areas to see mule deer.

## DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Bears—all bears—head the list of dangerous animals in Yellowstone National Park. Despite their sleepy, friendly looks, bears claw and bite visitors each year and destroy thousands of dollars worth of equipment.

If you are caught in a "bear jam," stay in your car with the windows rolled up. When camping don't put food in your tent! Food can be detected by bears, even when it is tightly wrapped. Bears may come right in with you during the night. To discourage these uninvited guests, keep your food locked in the trunk of your car. Never feed wild animals, most people who have been bitten were feeding animals in violation of park regulations.

Bison, moose, and elk, as well as some of the smaller animals, can be extremely dangerous, especially when closely approached. Again, keep your distance or remain in your car.



Ospreys are often seen in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

## GEYSERS AND HOT SPRINGS

Old Faithful is the park's favorite attraction. But sharing the Upper Geyser Basin are numerous other geysers, including Riverside, Grand, Castle, and Beehive. Eruption times for the most predictable geysers are posted in the Old Faithful Visitor Center.

Downstream along the Firehole River in the Firehole Park loop road, are the Midway and Lower Geyser Basins. Boardwalk trails and side roads lead to points of interest in those areas.

The Fountain Paint Pots Trail in the Lower Basin presents more varied hot water phenomena in a concentrated area than any other trail in the park.

Norris Geyser Basin is Yellowstone's most active thermal area. Eruption times for the more predictable geysers are posted at the museum in summer. Besides the numerous geysers, a variety of fumaroles (steam vents) and hot springs makes Norris an interesting place to visit.

Mammoth Hot Springs are quite different from other springs and geysers.

## FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Be careful with fire. Fires caused by man present a major threat to the park's vegetation. Man-caused fires will continue to be suppressed. Lightning-caused fires, however, are a natural and necessary part of the forest ecosystem. Research has shown that natural

fires influenced Yellowstone's environment for thousands of years prior to the arrival of modern man. Natural fires in certain areas of the park are thus being allowed to burn themselves out, providing they do not endanger human life and property.



In winter, the handiwork of frozen vapor in thermal areas provides touches of unusual beauty.

## CANYONS, LAKES, AND MOUNTAINS

Yellowstone Lake, placid on a summer morning, perfectly complements the vastness and serenity of its wilderness setting.



Just as the west side of the Grand Loop draws those fascinated by the geysers, so the east side attracts those who love canyons and waterfalls, placid and violent waters, and the soaring heights of mountain wilderness.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone leaves many people breathless. Go to Artistic Point, Inspiration Point, or Lookout Point. Look down at the deceptively tiny river below, at the wisps of steam, and the pastel canyon walls. Here you can see ospreys jets as low, as they wheel and soar over the canyon bottom. Or stand on the lip of the Lower Falls; watch the bottle-green Yellowstone River break into frothy white jets as it drops away 94 meters (309 feet) into the canyon below; listen to its constant wild roar; feel the spray on your face.

Yellowstone Lake is a mixture of charm on summer days, anger in sud-

den storms, and beauty in the quiet of evening sunset. Sit on the shore with your back against a log, watch a sunset reflected on the Absaroka Mountains to the east, and let your mind drift. Unexpectedly, you hear the muted sound of nature, the lapping of wavelets on the shore, and the murmur of birds in the spruce nearby. You feel a part of nature rather than apart from it.

Hike to the summit of windswept Mt. Washburn, and the panoramic view encompasses the whole park, and may include distant mountain ranges on clear days. Visible are the deep gash of the Grand Canyon, frigid Yellowstone Lake, and the expansive lodgepole pine forests of this high plateau.

Yellowstone is a wonderful and mysterious land which has intrigued the minds of men and moved them to great and inspired thoughts. The sheer wonder, the mystery and the beauty of this high mountain plateau challenged the early explorers. Here in Yellowstone were features of such significance that men were inspired to evolve a new philosophy for the land; a new land-use ethic based on preserving a part of our natural scene for the future. For here was established the world's first national park.

To many, Yellowstone is a fleeting glimpse of a geyser, a bear or a canyon through the window of a passing car. But certainly Yellowstone is more than this. It is more than a collection of scenic features and natural curiosities.

Yellowstone is an idea, a philosophy, and a monument to farsighted conservationists who more than a hundred years ago foresaw the need to preserve a

bit of primitive America; a symbol of America's reverence for the foundations of her greatness, the great untouched North American wilderness.

Walk out into the cool, crisp air of an early fall morning. Hear the frosty meadows crackle as dim shapes invade their stillness and the mountains ring with the age-old, wild notes of bull elk issuing their thrilling challenges. This is Yellowstone, a tremendous block of wild mountain country in which thousands of furred and feathered creatures are living, mating and dying in harmony with the natural rhythms that have ruled the land for millions of years.

In this natural scene, man is but a visitor who is privileged to share glimpses into the intimacies of nature—if he only has the time and patience. Her roads, campsites, and hotels are enclaves of civilization in a wilderness world in which nature remains sovereign.



Riverside Geyser, along the Firehole River in the Upper Geyser Basin, is one of the most predictable in the park, with 5 1/2 hours between eruptions.



Fossilized trees, which were buried in upright positions by volcanic material, punctuate the landscape in the northern part of Yellowstone.

## A LAND SHAPED BY FIRE AND WATER

In Yellowstone the two contrasting elements, fire and water, have combined to produce a land of natural wonders. It is a land born in the fires of thundering volcanoes and sculptured by glacial ice and running water into a fascinating landscape.

Although thousands of years have passed since Yellowstone's violent birth, the thermal features in the park bear testimony that at a comparatively shallow depth beneath us the fiery heart of the volcanoes still beats. Literally thousands of hot springs dot the thermal basins; gigantic columns of boiling water are hurled hundreds of feet into the air causing the ground to shake; hissing steam vents punctuate the valley floors; and stumps of redwood forests buried by volcanic ash and petrified in an upright position stand out starkly on eroded mountainsides.

More recently, glaciers have reworked the land's surface by smoothing canyons and leaving a myriad of sparkling blue ponds and lakes scattered across

the landscape. And now, mountain streams carve beautiful canyons and leap over resistant rock ledges in breathtaking cascades and waterfalls.

Geologically, Yellowstone is a young land, with the last of the lava flows burning their way across the surface less than 100,000 years ago. Soil development is shallow and pioneer plants are common. Even today fires and water, in the form of thermal heat, snow, and rain dominate the landscape and determine which plants and animals will make up Yellowstone's natural communities.

Visitors to Yellowstone are privileged to see in this vast array of natural features the culmination of several million years of exacting natural processes.