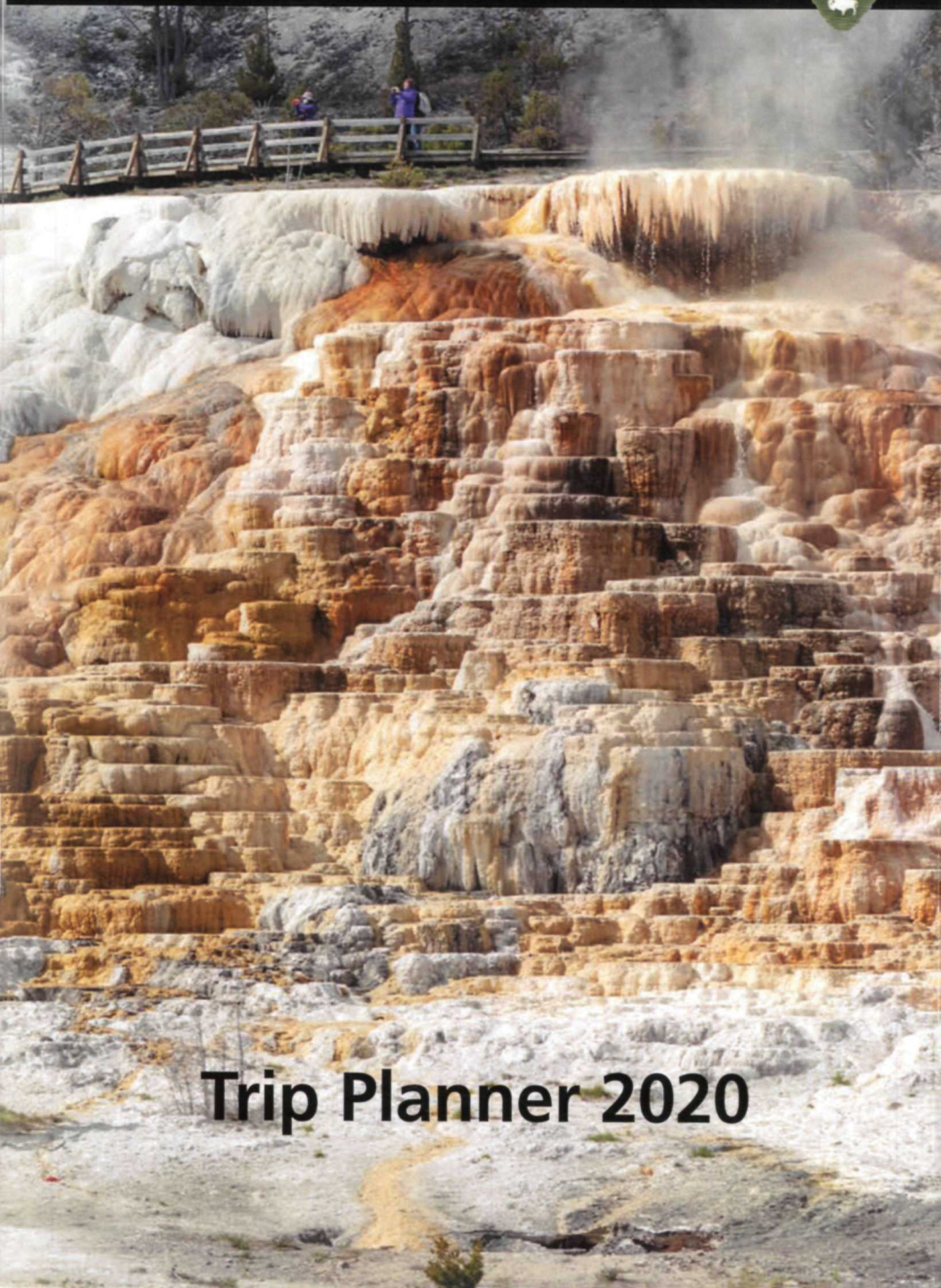


Yellowstone National Park



Trip Planner 2020

Explore Yellowstone Safely

Welcome

Millions of people come to Yellowstone each year to camp, hike, view wildlife and hydrothermal features, and to enjoy the majesty of the park. Use this guide to help you plan your visit so you can enjoy and make the most of these opportunities.

Stay on Boardwalks

Always stay on boardwalks and designated trails around hydrothermal features. Delicate formations and the crust surrounding them are thin, break easily, and often overlie scalding water. Visitors have been burned and died in thermal features.

- Toxic gases exist at dangerous levels in some areas. If you feel sick, leave immediately.
- Pets are prohibited in hydrothermal areas.
- Swimming is prohibited where water flows entirely from a hydrothermal spring or pool. Where allowed, swim at your own risk. The water can harbor agents of fatal meningitis and Legionnaires' disease.



Go online: www.nps.gov/yell to learn more about the park and plan your trip. We are also on social media.



Leave Room for Wildlife

Do not approach wildlife, no matter how tame or calm they may appear. If any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close. Always obey instructions from park staff on scene.

Big as they are, bison can sprint three times faster than humans can run. No vacation picture is worth personal injury. Your best view may be from inside a hard-sided vehicle.

Do not feed any animals (including birds and squirrels) or allow them to obtain a food reward from you. It is unhealthy and can lead to aggressive behavior and roadside accidents. Close human presence can be highly stressful to wildlife, forcing them to risk injury and to squander energy reserves needed for reproduction, nurturing offspring, and winter survival.

25 YARDS (23 METERS)

100 YARDS (91 METERS)



Keep your distance. Federal regulation requires you to stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other wild animals, such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and coyotes.

Bear Safety

Vacationing in bear country takes appropriate preparation. Be sure to learn what to do if you encounter a bear unexpectedly. Your safety cannot be guaranteed.

If you see a bear while driving, do not stop, and do not block the road. Keep moving to the next paved pullout and park safely. If the bear is within 100 yards, watch and take photographs from inside your car.

Visitors are required to keep all food, garbage, and scented items stored in a bear-proof manner. Tents, truck beds, unattended packs, and picnic tables are not secure.

Bear spray is proven to be highly successful at stopping aggressive behavior in bears.

Bear encounters

Check at local visitor centers or ranger stations for recent bear activity and respect all bear management closure areas.

Bears and other wildlife rely on carcasses for food and will protect a food source aggressively. Bears with cubs are especially dangerous.

- If you encounter a bear (*most common*)—back away slowly. Do not run.

Hiking in Bear Habitat

- Be alert for bears—watch for fresh tracks or scat.
 - Make noise in areas with limited visibility.
 - Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
 - Avoid hiking alone—hike on designated trails, in groups of three or more.
 - **DO NOT RUN**—back away slowly.
- If a bear charges at you (*rare*)—stand your ground and use bear spray.
 - If a bear charges and makes contact with you (*very rare*)—fall onto your stomach and “play dead.”
 - If a bear persistently stalks you, then attacks (*extremely rare*)—fight back.
 - If a bear attacks you in your tent (*extremely rare*)—fight back.

Report all bear encounters and wildlife incidents to a park ranger immediately.



Highlights

History

People have been visiting and living in the Yellowstone area for thousands of years. The park was established in 1872. Visit Mammoth Hot Springs to walk the self-guided trail around Fort Yellowstone, which chronicles the US Army's role in protecting the park. Other historic sites include the Norris Geyser Basin Museum, the Museum of the National Park Ranger, Obsidian Cliff, and the Old Faithful Inn and Historic District.

Grand Canyon

The spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, including Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, can be seen from the overlooks and trails of the Canyon Village area and from the Tower Fall and Calcite Springs overlooks south of Tower Junction.



Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River.



Geysers and Hot Springs

Geysers, hot springs, mudpots, and fumaroles are evidence of ongoing volcanic activity. To see them, visit Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, Firehole Lake Drive, Midway Geyser Basin, the Old Faithful area, West Thumb Geyser Basin, and Mud Volcano.

Yellowstone Lake

Yellowstone Lake is North America's largest high-altitude lake. The area is prime habitat for many birds and mammals. You can also enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and viewing hydrothermal features.

Wildlife

You can see a variety and abundance of wildlife unparalleled in the lower 48 states. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park are here: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. You'll also see a variety of birds, including bald eagles. Check visitor centers for best viewing locations.

Visitor Centers and Museums



Talk With a Ranger

Albright Visitor Center

Located at Mammoth Hot Springs, the center features wildlife dioramas and historic artifacts, a bookstore, trip planning, ranger programs, and the park's only free Wi-Fi. *Open all year.*

Canyon Visitor Education Center
Explore Yellowstone's supervolcano. See, hear, and learn how the volcano, geysers and hot springs, and geologic history influence all life found here. *Open mid-April–early November. Winter access via guided snowcoach or snowmobile tours.*

Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

Discover secrets of geysers, other hydrothermal wonders, and the fascinating story of life in extreme environments. *Open mid-April–early November. Winter access via guided snowcoach or snowmobile tours.*

West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
Information and publications.

Open late April–early November and winter.

Fishing Bridge Visitor Center
Information, bookstore, and exhibits on birds, wildlife, and lake geology. *Open late May–late September*

Grant Visitor Center
Information, bookstore, exhibits, and video on fire in Yellowstone. *Open late May–mid-October.*

Madison Information Station
Information and bookstore. *Open late May–early October.*

Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris
Historic soldier station about the history of the park ranger profession. *Open early June–mid-September.*

Norris Geyser Basin Museum
Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the hydrothermal features. *Open late May–mid-October.*

West Thumb Information Station
Information and bookstore. *Open late May–mid-October.*

Programs and Tours

Park Ranger Programs

Ranger-led activities and programs—from short walks to evening campfire presentations—occur during the summer and winter seasons. Rangers are also roving through major park feature areas. Check visitor centers and the park newspaper for program schedules. Or plan ahead at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/rangerprog.htm

Commercial Services

There are concessioners, outfitters, and professional guides that operate in the park. Authorized providers are listed at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm

Kids and Youth



The *Junior Ranger* and *Young Scientist* programs promote involvement in and understanding of Yellowstone. Ask at

visitor centers or learn more on the park website at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm

Yellowstone Forever



Yellowstone Forever is the park's official education and fundraising nonprofit partner. They connect thousands of visitors to the park each year with in-depth educational programs, from multi-day seminars to expert-led private tours. Most programs are based at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch, an off-the-grid field campus in Yellowstone's wildlife viewing mecca.

Yellowstone Forever also sells a complete selection of educational materials online and at their 11 park stores. The Deluxe Trip Planner package contains books and maps at 30% off the cost of purchasing each item separately. Visit www.yellowstone.org to learn more.



Activities



Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable. Be prepared for changing temperatures, storms, and emergencies. Most of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow yourself time to acclimate, and drink plenty of liquids. Visitors with cardiac or respiratory medical history should consult a physician before a visit.

Hiking can take you far from roads and crowds. Check trail conditions (i.e., areas of dead trees, stream crossings, etc.) at visitor centers, backcountry offices, or ranger stations.

Self-guiding trails are available at Mammoth Hot Springs, Fort Yellowstone, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot, the Upper Geyser Basin, Canyon, West Thumb Geyser Basin, and Mud Volcano.

Stock use depends on trail conditions. Coggins testing is required. Hay restrictions are enforced. Contact the backcountry office for information.

Swimming and wading are allowed, but discouraged due to extremely cold water and strong currents.

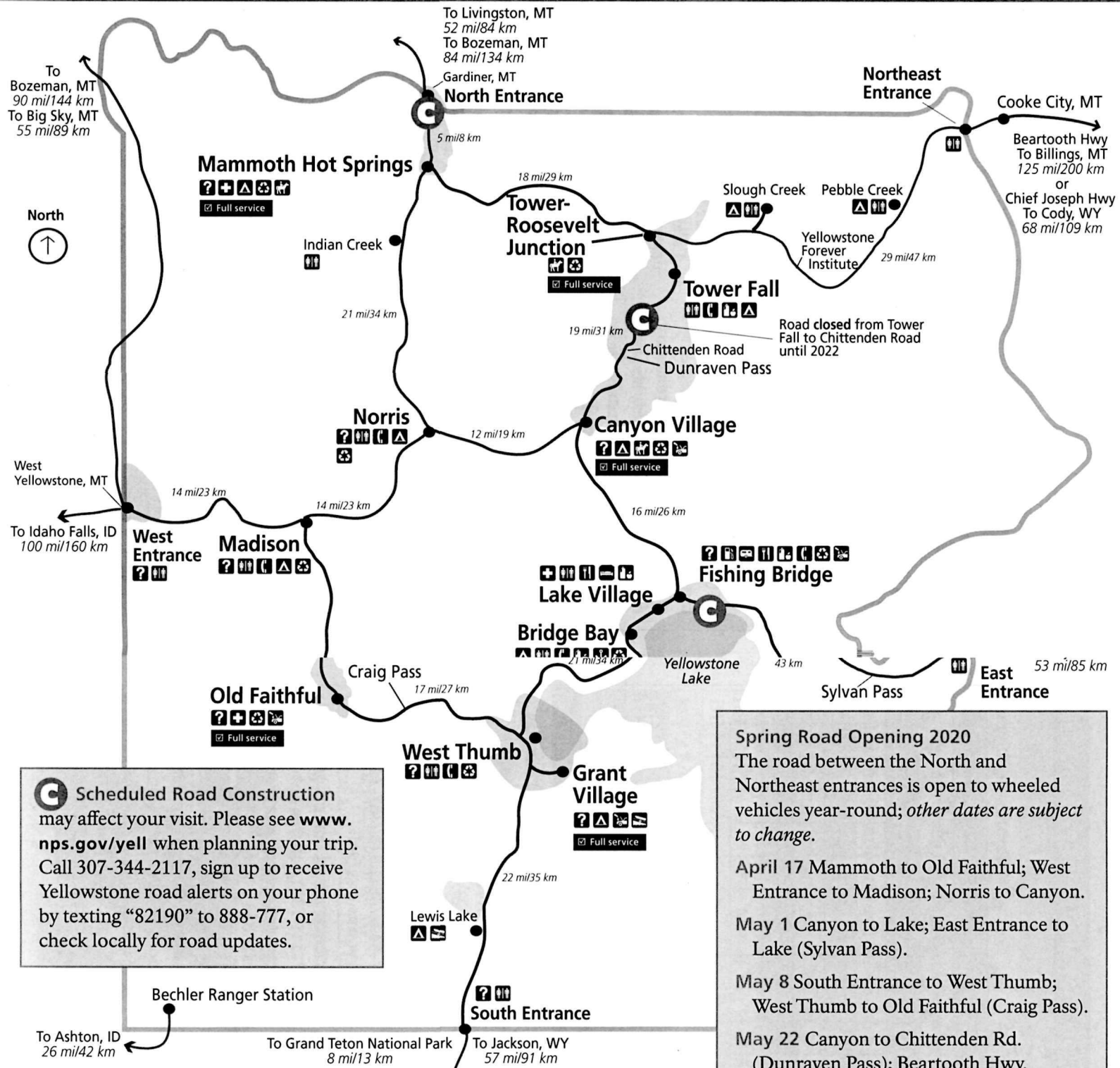
Fishing requires a Yellowstone National Park fishing permit. Special regulations also apply.

Boating is allowed on most of Yellowstone Lake and on Lewis Lake. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most other lakes. Only one river is open to non-motorized boating: the Lewis River channel between Lewis and Shoshone lakes (see "Regulations" for permit and aquatic invasive species inspection information).

Bicycling is allowed, but roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders. When biking, wear safety gear, helmet, and high-visibility clothing.

Drive the Grand Loop. Regardless of which park entrance you choose, you can drive a "figure eight" of interior roads that link you to many of the park's major features.





C Scheduled Road Construction may affect your visit. Please see www.nps.gov/yell when planning your trip. Call 307-344-2117, sign up to receive Yellowstone road alerts on your phone by texting "82190" to 888-777, or check locally for road updates.

Spring Road Opening 2020
The road between the North and Northeast entrances is open to wheeled vehicles year-round; *other dates are subject to change.*

April 17 Mammoth to Old Faithful; West Entrance to Madison; Norris to Canyon.

May 1 Canyon to Lake; East Entrance to Lake (Sylvan Pass).

May 8 South Entrance to West Thumb; West Thumb to Old Faithful (Craig Pass).

May 22 Canyon to Chittenden Rd. (Dunraven Pass); Beartooth Hwy.

June 5 Tower Junction to Tower Fall (see www.nps.gov/yell for further details).

Fall Road Closures 2020
September 6 Tower to Tower Fall.

October 13 Beartooth Highway; Canyon to Chittenden Rd. (Dunraven Pass).

November 2 All park roads close at 8 AM except the north entrance road to Cooke City.

- Full service** = restrooms, food service, general store, lodging, fuel
- Clinic
- General store
- Auto service
- Restrooms
- Lodging
- Horseback riding
- Visitor center or information station
- Camping
- Marina
- Boat launch
- Fuel
- RV camping (Hard-sided units only)
- Recycling
- Food service
- Phone
- Approximate Cell Coverage

Services

Services offered are subject to change. Look online: www.nps.gov/yell for more information.

Auto/RV Repair
 Backcountry Office
 Boat Cruises/Marina
 Bus Tours
 Fishing Permits
 Fuel
 General Store/Grocery
 Horseback Riding
 Lodging
 Public Laundry
 Public Showers
 Ranger Station
 Restaurant/Snacks
 Visitor Center

Bridge Bay		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	
Canyon	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing Bridge	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Grant Village	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Village				✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	
Mammoth		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Old Faithful	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roosevelt		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Tower Fall				✓	✓		✓						✓	

Accessibility

Facilities that are wheelchair negotiable are described in a free guide, *Accessibility in Yellowstone*, available at entrance stations and visitor centers. Or contact: *Park Accessibility Coordinator, PO Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190.*

To request a sign language interpreter for NPS interpretive programs, please call three weeks in advance 307-344-2251.

Medical Services

The park provides 911 emergency response. Mammoth Clinic is open year-round. In summer, outpatient services are available at Lake and Old Faithful. Ambulances, 24-hour emergency service, laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology services are available.

Information and Lodging

Cellular service is limited but may be available at Canyon, Grant, Mammoth Hot Springs, Lake, and Old Faithful.

Yellowstone National Park
 PO Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190
 307-344-7381, TTY 307-344-2386
www.nps.gov/yell

Xanterra Travel Collection
 307-344-7311, toll free 866-439-7375
www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com

Worship Services

In summer, most major denominations and interdenominational services are available in the park and adjacent communities. Check at visitor centers for local dates and times.

Park Entrance Fees (Valid for 7 days with Receipt)

Private vehicle	\$35*
Individual motorcycle	\$30*
Per person (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$20*

* Check website for current fees: www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fees.htm

Annual Passes (Photo ID Required)

Yellowstone National Park , valid for one year from month of purchase.	\$70*
Senior age 62 or older (US Citizens/Permanent Residents).	\$20
Interagency , valid for multiple federal fee areas.	\$80
Active Duty Military , valid for active duty U. S. military personnel and their dependents with proper identification (CAC card or DD Form 1173).	Free
Every Kid Outdoors , student must be present & have voucher.	Free

Lifetime passes (US citizens/Permanent residents)

Interagency Senior age 62 or older. Golden Age passports are still accepted.	\$80
Interagency Access for visitors with a permanent disability. Golden Access passports are still accepted.	Free

Purchase passes at an entrance station or online: <https://yourpassnow.com/r1s/site/72451>.

Digital Guide

Geyser predictions, interactive map, and more. Search for NPS Yellowstone and download the official, free app today on the App Store and on Google Play.



Chambers of Commerce

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

Regulations



Bicycling is allowed on public roads, parking areas, and designated routes. It is prohibited on boardwalks and backcountry trails.

All boats and float tubes require permits and **in-park** aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection. AIS can cause irreversible harm to the park and have resulted in loss of native fish and closure of some areas. Boaters must have a Coast Guard approved “wearable” personal flotation device for each person boating.

Calling to attract wildlife—
Bugling to elk, howling to wolves, calling to attract birds, is illegal.

Disturbing park features—
Possessing, collecting, removing, defacing, or destroying any natural or archeological objects or plants, animals, or minerals is prohibited.

Driving while intoxicated or under the influence is illegal.

Feeding animals is against the law.

Fires are permitted only in designated campgrounds, in picnic areas with fire grates, and in some backcountry campsites.

Fishing requires permits. Hooks must be barbless. Tackle must be non-toxic. Leaded split-shot sinkers, soft lead-weighted ribbon, and other toxic tackle are not allowed.

Food must be attended at all times while not in storage. Never leave food outside your vehicle or around your campsite—not even inside a cooler—when you are away or asleep.

Hay and stock feed are allowed only if certified weed-free hay and processed feed. Hay must be baled and covered. Trailers must be clean and empty of manure, loose hay, or feed.

Littering is illegal, unsightly, destroys hydrothermal features, and injures wildlife.

Multipurpose vehicles and motorcycles are not allowed off-road or on trails. Vehicles must display valid state plates and meet applicable motor vehicle safety standards.

Pets must be leashed. They are prohibited on any trails, in the backcountry, and in hydrothermal basins. Pets are not allowed more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from a road or parking area. Leaving a pet unattended and/or tied to an object is prohibited.

Service animals are allowed on trails and boardwalks in developed areas.

Slow-moving vehicles must pull over to let others pass. Never stop



Planning to use your own boat? You'll need a boating permit and a free AIS inspection.

or pause in the middle of the road. Use pullouts.

Speed limit is 45 mph (73 kph) unless posted slower.

Spotlighting, or viewing animals with artificial light, is illegal.

Transporting water, fish, and any other aquatic plants or animals into the park's waters is illegal. Aquatic Invasive Species can cause irreversible harm to the park.

Unmanned aircraft, also called drones, are prohibited. Launching, landing, or operating them on park lands and waters is not allowed.

Weapons and firearms: Use of weapons (air guns, bow and arrow, crossbows, blowguns, spears, slingshots, etc.) is prohibited. Firearms possession is allowed pursuant to applicable state and federal regulation. You are responsible for knowing and following all current firearms and weapons regulations for national parks, available at: www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm

Permits

Fishing season generally begins the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, usually the last weekend in May, and continues through the first Sunday of November. Fishing season opens later in some areas. Anglers 16 years or older require permits to fish in the park. No state license is required. Younger children can fish for free under certain conditions. Inquire at ranger stations, visitor centers, or general stores. Regulations are posted at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm

All boat permits (motorized and non-motorized) can be purchased at the South Entrance, Grant Village Backcountry Office, and Bridge Bay Ranger Station. Area restrictions apply.

Float tube permits can be purchased at the locations listed above, as well as the Mammoth, Canyon, and Old Faithful backcountry offices, the Northeast Entrance, and Bechler Ranger Station.

Overnight backcountry camping requires a permit and is subject to fees. Service animals are allowed in the backcountry. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm> or request a backcountry trip planner from the Backcountry Office, PO Box 168, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190.

Camping

Limits & Group Sites

Fourteen days from July 1 to the first Monday in September. Thirty day maximum the rest of the year. No limit at Fishing Bridge.

Available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay campgrounds for large groups with a designated leader, such as youth or educational groups. Price depends on size. Reservations are required.

Reserve sites with :
 Xanterra Travel Collection
 PO Box 165
 Yellowstone NP, WY 82190
 Toll-free: 866-439-7375, 307-344-7311

Few campgrounds have sites for a combined vehicle/towed equipment length of more than 30 feet. Reservations recommended. Some communities near the park also have RV parks.

Campground	Dates** (2020)	Rates (2020)	Sites	Elev. (ft)	Features
Mammoth	All year	\$20	85	6,200	A, F, G
Madison	4/24–10/18	\$27*	278	6,800	A, F, DS, G
Norris	5/15–9/28	\$20	112	7,500	A, F, G
Bridge Bay	5/15–9/7	\$27*	432	7,800	A, F, DS, G
Canyon	5/22–9/20	\$32*	273	7,900	A, F, S/L, DS, G
Tower Fall	6/5–9/6	\$15	31	6,600	A, V
Fishing Bridge RV [^]	<i>Closed summer 2020; possibly opening fall 2020</i>			7,800	F, S/L, DS, G
Grant Village	6/5–9/13	\$32*	430	7,800	A, F, S/L, DS, G
Indian Creek	6/12–9/14	\$15	70	7,300	A, V
Slough Creek	6/15–10/13	\$15	16	6,250	A, V
Lewis Lake	6/15–11/1	\$15	85	7,800	A, V
Pebble	6/15–9/28	\$15	27	6,900	A, V

* Price does not include tax or utility fee.

**Subject to change.

[^]All sites have electricity.

Golden Age, Senior, Golden Access, and Access pass holders receive a discount (~50%) on camping fees except at Fishing Bridge RV park.

A Accessible sites available
 F Flush toilets
 V Vault toilets
 S/L Pay showers/laundry near
 DS Dump station
 G Generators OK 8 AM–8 PM

Seasonal Access to the Park



Each season in Yellowstone holds its own special beauty. Riots of wildflowers enliven meadows in the summer, and a glittering crust of snow blankets the park in winter.

Weather and road access vary greatly throughout the year. Consider average conditions when planning your trip and check again before your departure.

Spring

Early in spring, daytime temperatures average in the 40s and 50s. By late May and June, they may reach the 60s and 70s. Cold and snow linger into June. Nighttime lows fall below freezing. Roads open by sections beginning the third Friday in April. Storms may cause restrictions or closures.

Summer

Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s. Nights are generally cool, dropping into the 40s and 30s. June can be cool and rainy. July and August tend to be drier, although afternoon thunder showers are common. Park roads are open, excepting accidents, rock slides, or construction work.

Autumn

Temperatures average in the 50s and 60s. Nighttime lows can fall into the teens and lower. Snow increases in frequency and intensity. Storms may cause temporary closures or restrictions, such as chain or snow tire requirements. Park roads close on the first Monday of November with the exception of the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, which is open all year round.

Winter

Daytime temperatures range from near zero to above freezing. Night temperatures may fall well below zero. Annual snowfall averages nearly 150 inches in most of the park, except in the northern range. All roads and entrances, with one exception, are closed to motor vehicle travel. Some may be groomed for over-snow vehicles. The North Entrance road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, is open to wheeled vehicles and may close due to storms. Snow tires are recommended and often required. You must return to the North Entrance to leave the park.

Yellowstone Trip Planner

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming 82190

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use: \$300



America the Beautiful: *National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass*, valid for one year from month of purchase for entrance fees to federal fee areas.

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