

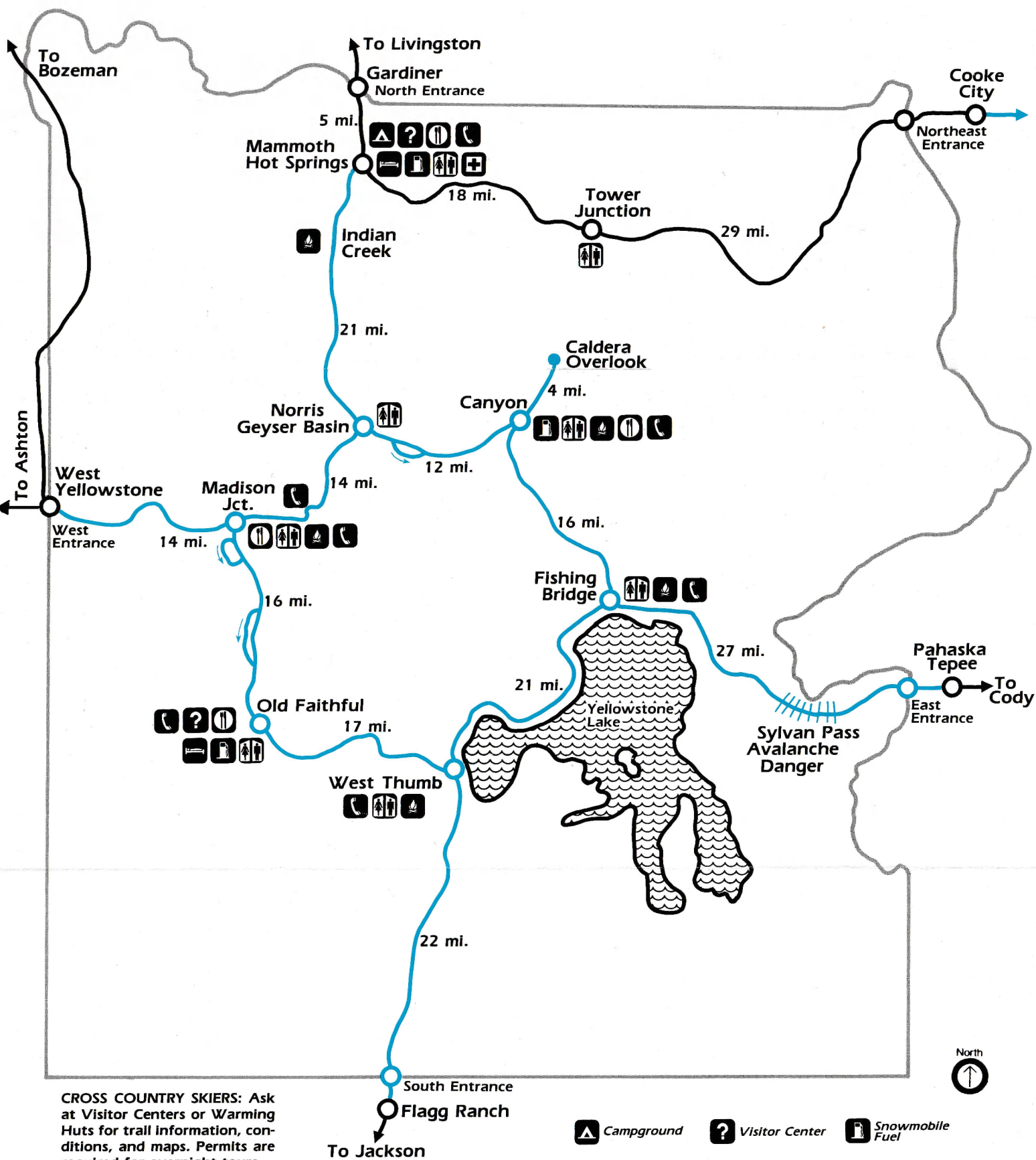
YELLOWSTONE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Winter Guide

In-park emergency - Dial 911
Information - (307) 344-7381



CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS: Ask at Visitor Centers or Warming Huts for trail information, conditions, and maps. Permits are required for overnight tours.



YELLOWSTONE

Winter in Yellowstone

Winter . . . for most of us it brings to mind images of icy roads, snowmen on the lawn, and the magic of Christmas. Wintertime in Yellowstone has a magic all its own. The lush, verdant mantle of summer gives way to a landscape clothed in white — surreal in its serenity, stark in its simplicity.

Yellowstone in winter is a study in contrasts. Superheated geyser steam blasts into air chilled to well below zero. A sapphire sky hugs the glistening white earth in a frozen embrace. The meadows and forests are alternately devoid of life or teeming with elk, bison, and mule deer.

All living things adjust to the severity of the season. Trumpeter swans, Canada geese, and ducks cluster along streams and rivers — wherever they can find open water. Elk and bison move to lower elevations and thermal regions where shallow snow depths offer hope for finding grass.

Coyotes, ravens, and magpies are ever alert for the weak and dying. Death for them means life. Chickadees, nuthatches, and other small forest birds huddle together in tree cavities where the warmth of the group gives comfort through the long winter nights.

People, too, adjust to the harsh reality of winter. Heavy snowmobile suits, wool sweaters, and down jackets provide insulation from the perpetual numbing cold. Yet, for hardy souls who meet winter on its terms, Yellowstone offers rewards enough. Elk and deer, concerned with conserving precious energy, move slowly and deliberately. Eagles soar in a sky so clear they seem close enough to touch. Ice crystals twinkle in the air like daytime stars.

Beauty in abundance . . . this is the promise of winter in Wonderland!

SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS

Yellowstone offers incomparable winter beauty; snowmobiling is one way to experience its wonders. These regulations are enforced by Park Rangers and deserve **special attention**.

- * Maximum speed limit is 45mph (72kph)
- * Snowmobiles may be driven on designated roads only. Sidehilling is prohibited and carries a fine of \$50.00 to \$500.00. Stay on the roads and avoid damage to you, your machine, and the environment.

* Wildlife has the right of way! Chasing, molesting, approaching, or feeding are prohibited.

* Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is illegal.

* Operators must be 16 years or older, except an adult (21 years or older) may supervise one operator 12-15 years old.

* Snowmobiles must be certified or registered according to the laws of the operator's state of residence, and have a muffler in good working order.

VISITOR CENTERS - WARMING HUTS

Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth Hot Springs. Information, publications, exhibits on park history. A movie and slide program are shown on request. Open daily year round.

Old Faithful Visitor Center. Information, publications, geyser eruption predictions. Open daily mid-December through mid-March.

Warming Huts. Located at Madison, Canyon, Fishing Bridge, West Thumb, and Indian Creek. Open 24 hours daily mid-December through mid-March. Phones available at all except Indian Creek. Some are staffed intermittently; others are unstaffed.

RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES

Mammoth Hot Springs - ski tours, snowshoe hikes, discovery hikes, and evening programs are offered throughout the winter. Check Visitor Centers or warming huts for schedules, or call (307)344-7381, Ext. 2357.

Winter Camera Safari - a 3-4 hour exploration of northern Yellowstone by car. Sundays, mid-January through mid-March. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Call (307)344-7381, Ext. 2357.

Old Faithful - geyser basin tours and evening programs are offered during winter. Call (307)344-7381, Ext. 6001 or ask for information at Visitor Centers or Warming Huts.

Canyon - guided snowmobile tours along the rims of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone are offered, along with other activities. Contact Visitor Centers or Warming Huts for more information.

West Thumb - guided tours of West Thumb Thermal Basin are offered, and other programs may be presented throughout winter. Information available at Visitor Centers and Warming Huts.

Madison - tours and activities are available on a limited basis. Look for details at Visitor Centers or Warming Huts.

WINTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Snowmobile Fuel—

Old Faithful
Canyon
Mammoth Hot Springs

TW Services
Reservation & Information
(307)344-7311

Lodging—

Old Faithful
Mammoth Hot Springs

Food Service—

Restaurants

Old Faithful
Mammoth Hot Springs

Snack Bars, Fast Foods

Old Faithful
Madison Warming Hut
Canyon Warming Hut

Lunch Counter, groceries

Mammoth Hot Springs

Camping—

Mammoth Hot Springs campground open year round

All other camping requires a free backcountry permit. Contact any Ranger.

Heated restrooms are located at Mammoth campground and Madison Warming Hut.

Snowcoach Access into Park—

Flagg Ranch (near the South Entrance), West Yellowstone, and Mammoth Hot Springs
Lower loop tour daily from Old Faithful

Snowmobile Rental—

Mammoth Hot Springs

Ski and snowshoe rental—

Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs

Sleigh rides, ice skating, hot tub rental, shuttle bus service—

Mammoth Hot Springs

Services and facilities are also available in neighboring communities. Contact area Chambers of Commerce for information.

