



Yellowstone & Grand Teton NATIONAL PARKS



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PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Yellowstone & Grand Teton	4
Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks Map	6
Yellowstone & Grand Teton's Top 20	8
Need to Know	18
If You Like...	20
Month by Month	23
Itineraries	25
Activities	30
Travel with Children	39



GRAND TETON P189



GENERAL STORE,
GARDINER P148

ON THE ROAD

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK ... 44

Day Hikes	48
Mammoth Country	48
Roosevelt Country	55
Canyon Country	57
Lake Country	62
Norris	65
Geyser Country	65
Bechler Region	69
Overnight Hikes	70
Canyon Country	70
Lake Country	72
Geyser Country	73
Bechler Region	76

Other Overnight Hikes.....	77
Driving	78
Geyser Trail	78

Cycling	79
Mammoth Country	79
Canyon Country	80
Lake Country	80
Geyser Country	80

Other Activities	81
Sights	87

Mammoth Country	87
Roosevelt Country	91
Canyon Country	93
Lake Country	98
Norris	102
Geyser Country	105
Bechler Region	114
Sleeping	115
Mammoth Country	115
Roosevelt Country.....	117
Canyon Country	118
Lake Country	119
Norris	120
Geyser Country	120

Bechler Region	121
Eating & Drinking	121
Mammoth Country	121
Roosevelt Country	121
Canyon Country	122
Geyser Country	122
Lake Country	123
Shopping	124

AROUND YELLOWSTONE... 126

Beartooth Route	127
Billings	127
Red Lodge	130
Beartooth Highway	133
Chief Joseph Scenic Highway	136
Cooke City.....	137
Wapiti Route	138
Cody	138
Wapiti Valley	143
Paradise Valley Route	144
Livingston	144
Paradise Valley	146
Gardiner.....	148

Gallatin Route	152
Bozeman	152
Gallatin Valley	155
Hebgen & Quake Lakes..	159
West Yellowstone	160

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ...166

Day Hikes	170
Colter Bay Region	170
Central Teton.....	173
The Tetons via Idaho	176
Moose-Wilson Road	180
John D Rockefeller Jr Memorial Parkway	182

Contents

UNDERSTAND

Overnight Hikes 182

Cycling 186

Summer Activities 189

Winter Activities.....191

Sights..... 192

John D Rockefeller Jr

Memorial Parkway 192

Colter Bay Region 194

Eastern Slopes 196

Central Tetons 197

Moose–Wilson Road ... 200

Sleeping..... 201

John D Rockefeller Jr

Memorial Parkway 201

Colter Bay Region 202

Eastern Slopes 203

Central Tetons 203

Moose 204

Eating & Drinking.....204

John D Rockefeller Jr

Memorial Parkway 205

Colter Bay Region 205

Central Tetons 206

Moose 206

AROUND GRAND TETON 208

Jackson 209

Jackson Hole 218

Upper Wind

River Valley 222

Idaho's Teton Valley 222

The Parks

Today 226

History 228

Geology 237

Wildlife..... 242

Conservation..... 251

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Clothing

& Equipment 254

Directory A–Z 258

Transportation 268

Health & Safety 272

Index..... 280

Map Legend..... 287

SPECIAL FEATURES

Travel with Children.... 39

Geology 237

Wildlife..... 242

Clothing &

Equipment 254

Itineraries



Yellowstone & Grand Teton Overview

Start in **Mammoth**, taking the morning to climb Bunsen Peak for the fantastic views, before paying a brief visit to Mammoth Hot Springs and driving to **Norris Geyser Basin**. Continue to your reserved campsite at Madison for some early evening elk- and bison-spotting or fly-fishing on the **Madison River**.

Spend the next two days in Geyser Country, hiking to either **Fairy Falls** or Sentinel Meadows for backcountry geysers and bison. Stay the night at historic **Old Faithful Inn** to experience the Upper Geyser Basin and the next day cycle out to **Lone Star Geyser** to catch a backcountry eruption.

Drive south into Grand Teton and search for trumpeter swans at **Oxbow Bend**. **Jenny Lake Drive** is worth a linger for its awesome views of the Central Tetons. Enjoy a family trip to forested **String** and **Leigh Lakes** or join the crowds for Grand Teton's most popular day hike up Cascade Canyon to **Lake Solitude**. Finally, cycle around **Mormon Row** for iconic views of barns and bison before heading south to **Jackson** for some R&R.



1 DAY Yellowstone Loop, North

This route through the north of the park takes in some premier wildlife-watching, views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and a sampler of geysers and hot springs. You'll need to start early and stay out late to fit it all in.

Head straight to the **Lamar Valley** around dawn to look for wolves, bears and bison. Grab a 'hiker's breakfast' at **Roosevelt Lodge** then drive up to **Dunraven Pass** to make the three- to four-hour return hike up Mt Washburn for the park's best views. Picnic amid the pines at shady **Cascade Lake** picnic area or grab lunch on the go at Canyon.

Gawp at the thundering falls and rusted colors of the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone** from Uncle Tom's Trail and Artist Point on the southern rim, before driving to the geysers and hot springs of **Norris Geyser Basin**. Then swing north toward Mammoth, stopping en route to watch for moose at **Willow Park**. Stroll the boardwalks at dusk to admire surreal Palette Springs and Canary Springs at **Mammoth Hot Springs**, before collapsing in the bar back at Roosevelt Lodge for a well-deserved Old Faithful Ale.

1 DAY Yellowstone Loop, South

The southern loop takes in epic Yellowstone Lake, the park's greatest geysers and a dip in the Firehole River. Starting in West Yellowstone adds 28 miles.

Start the day with a scenic drive around **Yellowstone Lake** and then branch west from West Thumb over the **Continental Divide** into Geyser Country. Check predicted eruption times at the visitor center to catch **Old Faithful** and others of the Upper Geyser Basin spouters. Head north to Midway Geyser Basin and admire **Grand Prismatic Spring**, then blow off steam with the kids in the thermally heated **Firehole Swimming Area** further north.

Continue north to the **Porcelain Basin** hot springs at Norris, grabbing a quick lunch at peaceful Norris Meadows picnic area, before turning east for views of the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone** from Uncle Tom's Trail and Artist Point. Swing south through **Hayden Valley** for some prime sunset wildlife-watching before enjoying the park's best food at **Lake Yellowstone Hotel's** dining room.



Above: Schwabacher's
Landing (p197)

Right: Boiling River
(p90), Mammoth
Country





1 DAY

Teton in a Day

Start with a hearty breakfast in Moose at **Dornan's Chuckwagon**, a pioneer-style camp serving flapjacks alfresco with great Teton views. Then glimpse the area's fascinating homesteading history at **Menor's Ferry**; audio tours are available for mobile phones. For excellent photographs, **Schwabacher's Landing** offers the best panoramas of the Teton's toothy Cathedral group.

Get off the road and into the wilderness with a short hike to the glacial moraines cupping Taggart and Bradley Lakes. Bring swimsuits and take a dip from Taggart's eastern edge if it's warm enough. Afterwards, take the short drive to the **Log Chapel of the Sacred Heart** and spread your blanket for a picnic at the edge of the pines.

Nearby, there's incredible Native American beadwork at the **Indian Arts Museum**. End your outing watching wildlife at **Willow Flats**; there's usually a moose munching in the dusky light. Finally, cap your day at **Jackson Lake Lodge** and down a huckleberry margarita at the Blue Heron.

4 DAYS

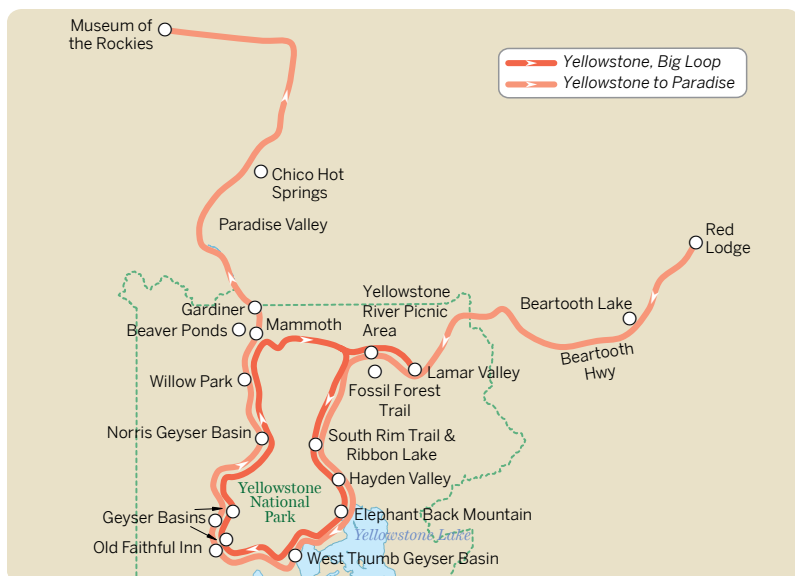
Jackson Hole & the Tetons

Fuel up with a classic breakfast of pan-fried trout at Wilson's **Nora's Fish Creek Inn**, then saddle your road bike to ride the Hole in One loop – extra points for starting from Wilson. Post-ride, opt for a brew at the award-winning Snake River Brewing Co, in **Jackson**.

On day two, hike out to scenic views at **Inspiration Point** and take the ferry back for an easy return. Detour to **Moose Ponds** to snag a glimpse of its namesake ungulates. For sunset views, rumble your pickup along the dirt roads of the **Plains & Panoramas route**.

On day three, take a white-water rafting trip down the **Snake River Canyon**. Later, treat yourself to a pan-roasted elk chop at Snake River Grill and take in some culture at the modern Center for the Arts, both in Jackson.

On your final day, join the locals powering up **Jackson Peak** for valley views of the Tetons. Make your last night count at the **Stagecoach Bar**, the liveliest roadhouse around.

4
DAYS

Yellowstone, Big Loop

From Mammoth head to some early morning wildlife viewing in the **Lamar Valley** before enjoying the crowd-free views of the Narrows on the **Yellowstone River Picnic Area** hike. Continue south to Canyon to take the **South Rim Trail & Ribbon Lake** hike before overnighing in Canyon Village.

The next day try some more early morning wildlife-watching in **Hayden Valley** before continuing south to hike **Elephant Back Mountain** for great views of Yellowstone Lake. After a lakeshore picnic on the sand bars around Gull Point, continue south to the hot springs of **West Thumb Geyser Basin** before heading west across the Continental Divide to overnigh at **Old Faithful Inn**.

Spend day three visiting the geyser basins, and the next day drive to Mammoth via **Norris Geyser Basin**, arriving at lunchtime to stroll the travertine terraces at **Mammoth**. Either take a guided walk through historical Fort Yellowstone or a dusk hike to spot wildlife on the **Beaver Ponds** trail.

1
WEEK

Yellowstone to Paradise

Add this three-day scenic drive onto the Yellowstone, Big Loop itinerary and you'll get a fantastic week of scenic drives, park highlights and even a trip through Paradise.

From Red Lodge, budget half a day to drive the Beartooth Hwy, stopping to stretch your legs at **Beartooth Lake**. Over-night in Cooke City, then enter the park for some early wildlife-watching in **Lamar Valley** and a hunt for petrified trees on the **Fossil Forest Trail**, before joining the Yellowstone, Big Loop itinerary at Canyon for two days' excursions to **Mammoth**.

Heading north from Mammoth on day six, squeeze in a morning rafting trip or horseback ride from **Gardiner** before continuing north through the lovely **Paradise Valley** to relax with a hot soak and gourmet dinner at **Chico Hot Springs**. Continue to Bozeman on your last day to spend a few hours at the **Museum of the Rockies** and do some last-minute shopping.

Alternatively, spend all your time in the park and throw in some more hiking, preferably the Sepulcher Mountain hike, an overnight hike to Heart Lake or even a three-day canoe trip around Shoshone Lake.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*.

Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



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Yellowstone National Park, Around Yellowstone An expat Brit, Bradley currently calls Yellowstone County, Montana home and hikes the parks and nearby Bear-tooth Plateau every chance he gets. Half a lifetime of travel through Central Asia, Tibet and Mongolia has made him feel quite at home in Big Sky country.

He was the coordinating author of the first three editions of this guide and is the coordinating author of many Lonely Planet guides, including *Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, Trekking in the Nepal Himalaya* and *Central Asia*. See what he's currently up to at www.bradleymayhew.blogspot.com. Bradley also wrote the Plan section, and Clothing & Equipment and Directory A–Z chapters.

Read more about Bradley at:

<http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/nepalibrad>



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