



# Grand Teton National Park

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## Best Hikes

- ➔ Leigh & Bearpaw Lakes (p173)
- ➔ Phelps Lake (p180)
- ➔ Taggart & Bradley Lakes (p175)
- ➔ Teton Crest Trail (p183)
- ➔ Table Mountain (p176)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Jenny Lake Lodge (p204)
- ➔ Triangle X Ranch (p203)
- ➔ Climbers' Ranch (p204)
- ➔ Jackson Lake Lodge (p203)
- ➔ Gros Ventre Campground (p204)

## Why Go?

Rough-cut summits rising sharply from a lush valley floor, the Tetons are a sight to behold. Simply put, this is sublime and crazy terrain, crowned by the dagger-edged Grand (13,770ft), a giant in the history of American mountaineering. And there's much more to explore here, from sagebrush flats and wildflower meadows to the hundreds of alpine lakes and fragrant forests trodden by bear, moose, grouse and marmot.

While the park is dwarfed by neighboring Yellowstone, it can offer visitors a more immediate intimacy with the landscape and more varied and scenic hiking. Climbers, boaters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts find plenty to do, and lovers of alpine scenery find that the Tetons' visual impact far exceeds that of Yellowstone's. Whichever way you wander, these rock spires exercise a magnetic attraction on your gaze.

## Road Distances (miles)

Moose	15			
Colter Bay (GTNP)	40	30		
Grand Targhee Resort (ID)	45	55	85	
Old Faithful (Yellowstone)	100	85	60	130
	Jackson	Moose	Colter Bay (GTNP)	Grand Targhee Resort (ID)

Note: Distances are approximate

## Entrances

The park begins 4.5 miles north of Jackson. There are three entrance stations. The closest to Jackson is the South Entrance at Moose on Teton Park Rd, west of Moose Junction. From Teton Village, the Southwest Entrance is a mile or so north via the Moose–Wilson Rd. If driving south from Yellowstone, take the North Entrance, 3 miles inside the park on US 89/191/287 north of Moran Junction.

In winter the 15-mile section between Taggart Lake Trailhead and Signal Mountain Lodge is closed to vehicles. For seasonal road closures, consult with the park.

### DON'T MISS

Don't miss sunrise from the deck of a canoe. Leigh Lake, our favorite, requires some effort but it's well worth a short haul in first light to see Mt Moran hulking in these still, clear waters. More visitors arrive with each hour of the day but this one is yours.

First, paddle String Lake, entering just off the trailhead. After a short canoe portage you're on Leigh. Either come early with headlamps or reserve a paddle-in backcountry campsite to make a night of it – though it's only a short trip, the off-trail setting feels marvelously rugged and wild. Bring binoculars to spot wildlife.

Canoes can be rented from Adventure Sports (p191) in Moose, along with life jackets and accessories. Acquire canoe and backcountry permits (both are required) at Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center (p207).

## When You Arrive

- ➔ To drive on Teton Park Rd, park entrance permits are required. They are valid for seven days for entry into both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks; the fee is \$30 per vehicle, \$25 per motorcyclist and \$15 for cyclists or hikers on foot. Winter day use has a lower fee, currently under review. An annual pass costs \$60.
- ➔ Keep your receipt to be able to reenter the park if you leave.
- ➔ There is no charge to transit the park on Hwy 26/89/191 from Jackson to Moran and out the East Entrance to the Togwotee Pass. This area encompasses the access road to Jackson Hole Airport.
- ➔ Visitors receive a free orientation map and copy of the park newspaper, *Grand Teton Guide*, which details ranger-led activities, road closures and park news.
- ➔ Bring bear spray and know how to use it. It's sold at park gift shops and outdoor stores.

## PARK POLICIES & REGULATIONS

Backcountry permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips in Grand Teton.

Permits are required for boating and fishing.

## Fast Facts

- ➔ Area: 484 sq miles
- ➔ Highest elevation: 13,770ft
- ➔ Lowest elevation: 6109ft

## Reservations

Lodging should be reserved as far in advance as possible, especially for peak-season dates. Grand Teton Lodge Company accepts reservations for the following season starting November 1. Most campgrounds are first-come, first-served but some allow a limited number of reservations. See websites for details.

- ➔ Grand Teton Lodge Company ([www.gtlc.com](http://www.gtlc.com))
- ➔ Spur Ranch Log Cabins ([www.dornans.com](http://www.dornans.com))
- ➔ Signal Mountain Lodge ([www.signalmountainlodge.com](http://www.signalmountainlodge.com))
- ➔ Flagg Ranch Company ([www.gtlc.com/headwaters-lodge.aspx](http://www.gtlc.com/headwaters-lodge.aspx))

## Resources

- ➔ **National Park Service** ([www.nps/grte](http://www.nps/grte)) Official park website.
- ➔ **Official park blog** ([www.gtnpnews.blogspot.com](http://www.gtnpnews.blogspot.com)) With current updates.
- ➔ **Official online ranger station** ([www.tetonclimbing.blogspot.com](http://www.tetonclimbing.blogspot.com))