

# Welcome to Yellowstone & Grand Teton

*With its raging geysers and howling wolf packs, Yellowstone stands as one last pocket of a wild, primeval America.*

## Wild Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park is the wild, free-flowing, beating heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Its real show-stoppers are the geysers and hot springs – nature's crowd-pleasers – but at every turn this land of fire and brimstone breathes, belches and bubbles like a giant kettle on the boil. The park's highways traverse these geysers, through meadows and forests, past roadside herds of bison and campsites aromatic with pine needles and family campfires. In between lies the country's largest collection of elk, the continent's oldest, largest wild bison herds and a pristine wilderness roamed by wolves, grizzlies, moose and antelope. Yep, it's awesome.

## The Tetons' Alpine Splendor

South of Yellowstone is Grand Teton National Park, home to probably the most iconic mountain range in the United States. These showy peaks, reflected in a string of easily accessed glacial lakes, come close to most people's picture-postcard image of alpine splendor and will send a shiver of excitement down the spine of even the least vertically inclined. Buckle up and climb a Teton peak, backpack the Teton Crest and then recover with the sophisticated charms of Jackson Hole. Rarely are the delights of the front- and backcountry so close together.

## Beyond the Parks

The natural wonders don't stop at the parks' boundaries. The two parks and their surrounding protected areas form an interconnected area six times the size of Yellowstone and with a fraction of the crowds. Here you'll find blue-ribbon trout streams, fabulous hiking trails (without pesky permits) and a scattering of charming Wild West towns with their gaze set firmly on the great outdoors. Budget some time to get a taste of the West in Cody, try Montana's biggest skiing in Big Sky and drive America's most scenic highway across the Beartooth Plateau.

## The Great Outdoors

Mountain bikers, skiers, backpackers, boaters, kayakers and snowmobilers will all find a million adventures waiting in Greater Yellowstone. Inside the parks you'll have to share space with three million visitors a year, but even in summer it's not hard to shake the crowds if you're prepared to get active. Whatever your interests, some experiences are destined to become shared memories – the taste of s'mores over a campfire, wrinkled noses at the smell of sulfurous steam and the electrifying thrill of hearing your first wolf howl. A journey to Yellowstone is not only a great vacation, but also a modern pilgrimage to two of the US' most admirable and enduring national landmarks.



## Why I Love Yellowstone & Grand Teton

By Bradley Mayhew, Writer

It is the wildness of Yellowstone that amazes me; the notion that large parts of the park remain unaffected by human interaction. My most profound Yellowstone moment was in this backcountry, transfixed for hours as I watched a pack of wolves try to take down a bull elk. Occasionally the wolves would glance at me as if to suggest that perhaps I would be an easier meal. Only then did I truly realize that I was miles from the trailhead, alone in the wild. That there are places like Yellowstone that still allow for such moments is cause for celebration.

**For more about our writers, see p288.**