



Grand Teton National Park

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Best Hikes

- » Hidden Falls (p190)
- » Phelps Lake (p193)
- » Lake Solitude (p190)

Best Places to Stay & Eat

- » Jenny Lake Lodge (p205)
- » Triangle X Ranch (p204)
- » Climbers' Ranch (p205)
- » Jenny Lake Lodge Dining Room (p207)
- » Pizza Pasta Company (p207)

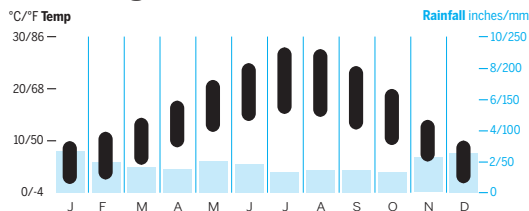
Why Go?

Rough-cut summits rising sharply from a lush valley floor, the Tetons are a sight to behold. Simply put, it's sublime and crazy terrain, crowned by the dagger-edged Grand (13,770ft), a giant in the history of American mountaineering. But there's much more, 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 Yellowstone, it can offer visitors a more immediate intimacy with the landscape and more varied and scenic hiking. In addition, climbers, boaters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts find plenty to do. For lovers of alpine scenery, the Tetons' visual impact far exceeds that of Yellowstone. Whichever way you wander, these rock spires exercise a magnetic attraction on your gaze.

When to Go

Teton Village, WY



June & July
Meadows blaze blue skies, rutting elk and fall foliage, rivers rush and days are long

September Cool blue skies, rutting elk and fall foliage

April Milder days for ski touring the snowbound park

GATEWAY TOWNS

- » Jackson (p210), near the South Entrance;
- » Teton Village (p219), near the Southwest Entrance.

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. Check websites for more details.

Grand Teton Lodge Company (www.gltc.com)

Spur Ranch Log Cabins (www.dornans.com)

Signal Mountain Lodge (www.signalmountainlodge.com)

Flagg Ranch Resort (www.flaggranch.com)

Resources

- » Official park website: www.nps/grte
- » Official park blog with current updates: www.gtnpnews.blogspot.com
- » Official online ranger station: www.tetonclimbing.blogspot.com

Entrances

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

The 14-mile section between the Taggart Lake Trailhead and Jenny Lake is closed to vehicles during winter months (dates depend on snowfall). For other seasonal road closures, consult with the park before travel.

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. There is a short canoe portage and then 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 Dornan's in Moose, along with life jackets and straps or racks for transporting. You can obtain both your canoe and backcountry permits (required) from the Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center.

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 \$25 per vehicle, \$20 per motorcyclist and \$12 for cyclists or hikers on foot. Winter day use costs \$5. An annual pass to both parks costs \$50.
- » Keep your receipt to be able to leave and re-enter the park.
- » 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 the extensive program of ranger-led activities, road closures and park news.