



# Discover Grand Teton

Discover ... History

Discover ... Geology

Discover ... Wildlife

## 11,000 Years of Use

### The Earliest Visitors

Archaeologists have evidence that ancient people began to use the valley 11,000 years ago. They lived in the area from spring to fall, but left when winter arrived.

### Days of Mountain Men

By the 1820s, mountain men began to arrive. They trapped beaver and other animals for their fur. Jackson Hole, the valley at the base of the Teton Range, was named for mountain man David E. Jackson.

### Early Settlers

Isolation and climate kept most people from living in the valley until the late 19th century. Early settlers harvested hay, oats and raised cattle. Life was hard and some barely managed to survive.

### The "Dudes"

Dudes were wealthy visitors from the east who traveled to the valley to experience "western life." They were some of the first tourists to the area that is now Grand Teton National Park.

### A National Park for All

Many people worked for years so that this wonderful place could be protected. Today visitors from all over the world come to this area for the beautiful mountains, wildlife and outdoor activities.



## Formation of a National Park

**D**id you know Grand Teton National Park was established in both 1929 and 1950? When Congress and President Calvin Coolidge established the park in February of 1929 it was much smaller than it is today. The 96,000 acre park included only the Teton Range and six lakes at the base of the mountains.

In 1943 President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Jackson Hole National Monument that protected the valley at the base of the Teton Range. The 210,000 acre monument included the remaining federal lands on the valley floor.

On September 14, 1950 Congress and President Harry S. Truman expanded Grand Teton National Park. The existing national park was combined with the national monument, and a generous 35,000 acre donation by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. forming the 310,000 acre park we know today.

Grand Teton National Park is famous for beautiful mountain scenery and wildlife. Along with the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, Yellowstone National Park and several national forests, Grand Teton is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. It is one of the most wildlife-rich areas in the world. Elk, moose, pronghorn, bison and bears are just some of the animals calling this place home.



In August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act creating the National Park Service. The mission of the National Park Service is to let people enjoy the parks and to preserve and protect them for future generations.

Today, the National Park Service preserves and protects over 400 sites covering more than 83 million acres in 49 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. What is the nearest National Park Service site near you? Go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) to find out!

**1929**  
**1950**

Year Grand Teton National Park was established and year the park increased in size

**310,000**  
**485**

Size of Grand Teton National Park in acres and in square miles

**3**  
**Million**

Number of visitors to Grand Teton National Park each year

# Seasons In the Range



## Spring

Spring days may be mild, but nights are cold. Rain and possibly snow are common.

## Summer

Summer days are warm and nights are cool. Be careful! Afternoon thunderstorms are common.

## Fall

Fall has sunny days and cold nights with rain and occasional snow.

## Winter

During winter, snow blankets the mountains and valley. Between storms the days are sunny and the nights are very cold with temperatures below zero.

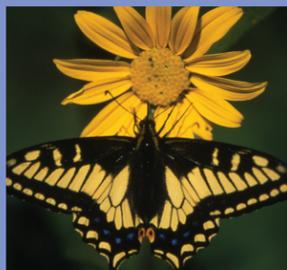


The Teton Range receives an average of 450 inches of snow each year. November, December and January are the wettest months.

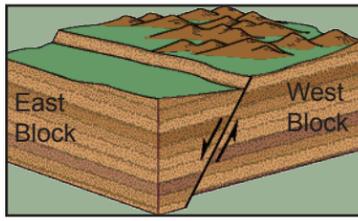


## Snow = Water = Life

During the winter months the mountains store water in the form of snow and ice. At the end of the long winter, snow and ice melt and drain from the mountains as water. As the snowmelt runs into lakes and rivers it helps plant life to grow, providing food for wildlife.



# Teton Geology



A fault forms and begins to build the mountains



Ice age glaciers change the landscape dramatically



An aerial view of today's landscape



The jagged peaks of the Cathedral Group (Grand Teton, Mt. Owen and Teewinot)



Schoolroom Glacier is one of the existing glaciers in the park

## Building a Mountain Range

Millions of years ago, stretching of the Earth's crust caused a crack, or fault, to form. Over millions of years, earthquakes up to magnitude 7.5 shook the land. The blocks of land on either side of the fault slipped past one another. This caused the west block to swing up forming the mountains and the east block to drop down forming the valley called Jackson Hole.

## Changing the Face of the Range

Beginning around two million years ago, the Earth's climate cooled and glaciers (rivers of ice and snow) began to form. These glaciers sculpted the land. Ice up to 3,500 feet thick flowed south off the Yellowstone Plateau across the valley floor. Glaciers flowed slowly down the mountains, carving U-shaped canyons and jagged peaks like the Grand Teton. At the base of the U-shaped canyons the ice bull-dozed out basins filled by small lakes today.

## Today's Landscape

Today the highest peak, the Grand Teton, rises 13,770 feet above sea level. The last earthquake happened about 5,000 years ago but the fault will become active again. Imagine a rubber band stretched to its limit; sooner or later it will break. There are about ten glaciers in the park today, but climate change is causing them to shrink. The forces shaping Grand Teton National Park are still at work, mountains will continue to rise, while wind, water and ice will continue to wear down the mountains as part of a never-ending story.

## Weather in Grand Teton National Park

The chart below is from data collected at Moose, Wyoming from 1958 to 2013.

Month	Average Maximum Temperature (Degrees F)	Average Minimum Temperature (Degrees F)	Average Precipitation (Inches)	Average Snowfall (Inches)	Average Snow Depth (Inches)
January	26	1	2.6	43	27
February	31	3	1.9	29	33
March	39	12	1.6	20	30
April	49	22	1.5	10	12
May	61	31	2.0	2	0
June	71	37	1.7	0	0
July	81	42	1.2	0	0
August	79	40	1.3	0	0
September	69	32	1.4	1	0
October	56	23	1.4	5	0
November	38	14	2.1	23	4
December	27	2	2.6	40	16

**93°F**  
**-63°F**

Record high and low temperatures in Grand Teton

**450 in.**  
**170 in.**

Average snowfall in the mountains and in the valley

**8**  
**13,770 ft.**

Peaks over 12,000 feet and elevation of Grand Teton, the highest peak

# Explore Park Communities

A community is like your neighborhood; it is a group of plants and animals living together. Within each community, the area where a plant or animal finds food, water and shelter is its habitat. Over 1,000 species of plants, 60 species of mammals and 300 species of birds may be found in Grand Teton National Park.



## Alpine

In the highest part of the mountain range, above where trees grow, plants adapt to wind, snow and lack of soil by growing close to the ground. Wildflowers such as alpine forget-me-not, sky pilot and subalpine buttercup grow here. Bighorn sheep and pikas make their home here.

## Forest

Trees grow from the valley floor to high on the mountain slopes. Most of the trees are conifers (cone-bearing trees with needle-like leaves) such as lodgepole pine. Some trees are deciduous (those that lose their leaves in the fall) such as aspens. Elk and black bears seek the forest for shelter during hot summer days.

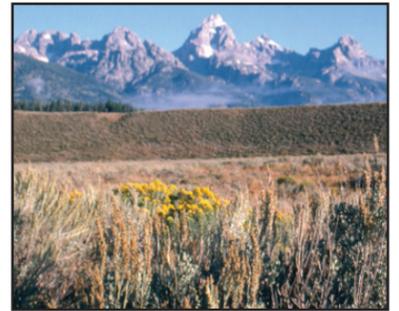


## Wetlands

Marshes, streams, rivers, ponds and lakes provides homes in and around them. Plants such as pond lilies, willows and cattails supply wildlife with food and shelter. Moose and beaver browse in areas where the water meets the land. Almost all wildlife benefits from wetland communities.

## Sagebrush

Sagebrush covers most of the valley floor. Sagebrush, a low silvery-green shrub, does not need much water and grows well in the rocky, dry valley soils. Although sagebrush is primarily eaten by pronghorn and sage grouse, it also provides shelter for Uinta ground squirrels and other small animals.



# Who am I?

The park has so many different communities that a wide variety of animals call this place home. Can you guess the animals described below? Match the picture to the description.

a) I live in alpine communities. I am a small rabbit-like animal that lives in rocky places. You may hear my alarm call, "enk! enk!" before you see me.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Yellow-bellied Marmot



Grizzly Bear

g) I am usually seen in open areas. I hunt in a family group and am very social. I range from white to black in color, and you are very lucky if you see me!  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

b) I live in alpine communities. I am an expert mountain climber. I eat small grasses and wildflowers that grow above tree line. I have large curved horns.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Bison



Gray Wolf

h) I live in sagebrush communities. I am the fastest land mammal in North America. I can run as fast as 70 mph! I have short horns with prongs and a white belly.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

c) I live in alpine communities. I am the largest member of the squirrel family. I love to sunbathe on rocks in the summer and hibernate for many months during winter.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Uinta Ground Squirrel



Bald Eagle

i) I live in sagebrush communities. I make tunnels in the rocky soil for my home. I resemble a prairie dog, but I am smaller and faster.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

d) I live in forest communities. I am always looking for good things to eat like ground squirrels and berries. I come in many colors and can weigh up to 300 pounds.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Elk



Pronghorn

j) I live in herds in the sagebrush community. I am dark brown in color, but my calves are much lighter (almost red-orange). I may look tame but I can be very unpredictable.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

e) I live in forest communities in small herds in the summer. At dawn and dusk I go to the edge of the trees to eat grasses and other plants in the meadows.  
I am an \_\_\_\_\_

Pika



Bighorn Sheep

k) I live in wetland communities. I am the largest member of the deer family. I may be seen standing in ponds on my long legs looking for underwater plants to eat.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

f) I roam from meadows to open forests. I eat whitebark pine nuts, moths and anything else. I come in many colors, have a large hump on my shoulder and can weigh up to 500 pounds.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

Moose



Black Bear

l) I soar above wetland communities. I feed mainly on fish and ducks. I use trees for perching and nesting. My wing span can be up to seven feet across.  
I am a \_\_\_\_\_

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Grand Teton National Park  
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose, WY 83012-0170



## What's my job?



Grand Teton National Park is like a business. They hire lots of different people to do lots of different jobs. You may grow up to be one!

- **Interpretative Rangers:** lead walks and give talks to visitors and work at visitor centers.
- **Law Enforcement Rangers:** help keep the park safe for visitors and wildlife.
- **Climbing Rangers:** provide visitors with information about climbing routes and conditions, patrol the backcountry and help rescue visitors if they get injured.

- **Fire Fighters:** fight wildland fires throughout the park and the country, and sometimes set fires to make the ecosystem healthier.
- **Scientists:** study the natural resources in the park to help preserve and protect them.
- **Fee Rangers:** collect fees at entrance gates and greet visitors as they enter the park.

And almost any other job you can imagine: accounting, business, construction, architects, maintenance, planners and more!  
What interests you?



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Park Address

Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose WY 83012

### E-mail

grte\_info@nps.gov

### Phone Number

307-739-3399

### For more information go to:

[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)  
[www.nps.gov/grte/forkids/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/forkids/index.htm)

The National Park Service cares for the special places preserved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## How You Can Help!

Get up! Get busy! Show you care about your home, your neighborhood and your national parks.

### Keep Animals Wild

Keep a safe distance from wildlife and do not feed them. Human food may make wild animals sick and more aggressive.

### Enjoy Nature

Enjoy wildflowers and rocks, but leave them for others to enjoy.

### Stay on Trails

Stay on trails to protect plants and animals.

### Stash Your Trash

Pick up your own trash; and help out by throwing away litter others have left.

### Don't Be a Drip

Less than 1% of the water on Earth may be used by people. Use our water wisely.

### Lights Out

Saving energy is as simple as turning off a light or trying a new energy-saving bulb.

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Think before you throw something away; reduce what you use, reuse what you can and recycle what cannot be reused.

### Kid Power

Ride a bike, take a hike! It helps you and the Earth stay healthy. When you use kid power you don't create pollution.

### Explore. Learn. Protect.

Get outdoors! Visit and explore the national parks that belong to you! Is there a national park close to your home? For more information go to: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)