Day Hikes

Backcountry Regulations

- Respect wildlife. Do not approach or feed animals. Observe them from a safe distance; at least 100 yards from bears and wolves, and 25 yards from other wildlife.
- All overnight camping in the backcountry requires a permit.
- Carry out all your garbage.
- Hike on established trails to prevent erosion.
- Horses and other stock have the right-of-way. Step off the trail on the uphill side and wait quietly while stock pass.
- Pets, bicycles and vehicles are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry.
- Backcountry sanitation: To prevent contamination of waterways, bury feces in a hole 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water. Pack out used toilet paper, tampons, sanitary napkins and diapers in sealed plastic bags. Do not bury or burn any materials.

For Your Safety

- BE BEAR AWARE! Avoid surprising bears by making noise—call out and clap your hands. Bear bells are not sufficient. The use of personal audio devices is strongly discouraged.
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Be sure not to spray it accidentally.
- Proper food storage is required. Ask a ranger for more information.
- Carry drinking water.
- Be prepared for rapid weather changes; bring rain gear and extra clothing. Avoid wearing cotton.
- High elevation may cause breathing difficulties; pace yourself.
- Snow melts gradually, leaving valley trails by mid-June, canyon trails by late July. Be careful crossing snowfields and streams.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Solo hiking, off-trail hiking and trail running are not recommended.
- Check with a ranger for up-to-date information on trail conditions.

Parking Tips

- During July and August trailhead parking areas fill early in the day, especially South Jenny Lake, String Lake, Lupine Meadows, Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, Death Canyon and Granite Canyon. Be flexible; plan for alternate hikes.
- Start your hike early to minimize parking problems.
- Parking on natural vegetation may result in permanent damage or may start a fire.
- Please obey posted parking regulations.
- Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, Death Canyon and Granite Canyon are reached via the Moose-Wilson Road, which is closed to trucks over 25 feet long, RVs and trailers.
1. Flagg Ranch
Polecat Creek Loop Trail, 2.5 miles RT*, 2 hours, 80 ft total climbing**, EASY
West side of loop follows ridge above a marsh that provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.
Flagg Canyon, 4.0 miles RT, 3 hours, 150 ft total climbing, EASY
Access from northeast side of Polecat Creek Loop Trail. Out and back north along Snake River with spectacular river views.

2. Colter Bay (Brochure available)
Lakeshore Trail, 2.0 miles RT, 1 hour, 100 ft total climbing, EASY
Levee trail follows Colter Bay shoreline; provides views of Jackson Lake and the Teton Range.

3. Jackson Lake Lodge
Lunch Tree Hill, 0.5 mile RT, ½ hour, 80 ft total climbing, EASY
Short interpretive trail leads to the top of a hill overlooking Willow Flats and the Teton Range.
Christian Pond Loop, 3.3 mi. RT, 2 hours, 250 ft total climbing, EASY
Walk through marsh habitat near the pond, then climb a forested ridge for views of the Tetons Range.

4. Two Ocean Lake
Two Ocean Lake, 6.4 miles RT, 3 hours, 400 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Circle lake through forests and meadows.
Emma Matilda Lake, 10.7 miles RT, 6 hours, 1100 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Circle lake; north trail follows ridge offering views of the Tetons Range.

5. Signal Mountain
Signal Mountain, 6.8 miles RT loop, 4 hours, 850 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Traverse forests to viewpoint. Park at Signal Mountain Lodge and walk on park road to trail.

6. Leigh Lake (Brochure available)
Leigh Lake, 1.8 miles RT, 1 hour, 40 ft total climbing, EASY
Hike along the east shore of String Lake, pass the bridge across a stream and climb to Leigh Lake.
Bearpaw Lake, 8.0 miles RT, 4 hours, 350 ft total climbing, EASY-MODERATE
From String Lake, follow forested shore of Leigh Lake to smaller lakes with views of Mount Moran.

7. String Lake (Brochure available)
String Lake, 3.7 miles RT, 2 hours, 325 ft total climbing, EASY
Trail circles the lake through a burned area below Rockchuck Peak and Mount St. John.

8. Jenny Lake/Cascade Canyon
(Brochure available)
A shuttle boat crosses from south Jenny Lake to the mouth of Cascade Canyon. Purchase tickets at the South Jenny Lake boat dock.
Fee Charged.
Jenny Lake Loop, 7.1 miles RT, 4 hours, 450 ft total climbing, EASY
Gently rolling trail skirts lake shore.

9. Lake Solitude, 19.0 miles RT, 3 hours, 2700 ft total climbing. Via shuttle boat: 2.0 miles RT, 2½ hours, 420 ft total climbing, MODERATE-STRENUOUS
Follow trail to Hidden Falls, then continue climb to Inspiration Point overlooking Jenny Lake.

10. Taggart Lake
(Brochure available)
Taggart Lake, 3.0 miles RT, 2 hours, 350 ft total climbing, EASY
Out-and-back trail traverses sagebrush flats and forests to a lake with views of the Grand Tetons.
Taggart Lake-Bradley Lake, 5.9 miles RT, 3 hours, 800 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Loop hike visits two lakes dammed by glacial moraines.

11. Menors Ferry
(Brochure available)
Menors Ferry Historic District, 0.3 mile RT, ½ hour, EASY
Tour a historic homestead and ferry on the Snake River. Visit the Chapel of the Transfiguration.

12. Death Canyon
(Not accessible to trucks over 25 feet long, RVs or trailers.) Phelps Lake Overlook, 2.0 miles RT, 2 hours, 430 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Trail climbs moraine to overlook of Phelps Lake.
Phelps Lake, 4.2 miles RT, 3 hours, 1050 ft total climbing, STRENUOUS
Trail climbs to overlook, then descends to Phelps Lake. Return involves steep hike back to overlook.
Death Canyon-Static Peak Trail Junction, 7.9 miles RT, 4 hours, 2100 ft total climbing, STRENUOUS
Trail climbs to overlook, drops toward Phelps Lake, and then climbs into Death Canyon to a patrol cabin.

13. Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve
(Brochure available. Not accessible to trucks over 25 feet long, RVs or trailers.)
Lake Creek-Woodland Trail Loop, 3.1 miles RT, 1.5 hours, 300 ft total climbing, EASY
Hike along Lake Creek to the shore of Phelps Lake.
Aspen Ridge-Boulder Ridge Loop, 5.8 miles RT, 3 hours, 700 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Hike through aspen groves and boulder fields to the shore of Phelps Lake.

14. Granite Canyon
(Not accessible to trucks over 25 feet long, RVs or trailers.)
Marion Lake, 18.5 miles RT, 12 hours, 3000 ft total climbing, MODERATE
Follow Granite Creek to beautiful Marion Lake.

15. Aerial Tram, Tetons Village
Trails are not recommended for hiking until snow has melted, usually by late July. Fee charged.
Marion Lake, 11.8 miles RT, 7 hours, 4000 ft total climbing, STRENUOUS
Hike through alpine and subalpine terrain to Marion Lake and return to the tram.
Granite Canyon, 12.3 miles RT, 7 hours, 4200 ft total descent (with 450 ft climbing), MODERATE
Start at the top of the tram, hike into the park, down Granite Canyon and return to Tetons Village.

16. Teton Canyon
Targhee National Forest/Table Mountain, 12.0 miles RT, 7 hours, 4100 ft total climbing, STRENUOUS
Steep climb to Table Mountain with incredible views of the Grand Tetons with the south fork of Cascade Canyon below.

17. Cunningham Cabin
(Brochure available)
Cabin Loop, 0.8 mile RT, 1 hour, EASY
Tour a historic homestead.
*RT= round-trip **ft total climbing = All uphill hiking, including elevation descended and reascended in feet (ft).