



Backcountry Trip Planner



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Backcountry Permits

A Backcountry Use Permit is required for all overnight trips in the backcountry. The permit is valid only for the dates, locations, and party size specified. Permits are not required for day hiking; however, day hikers must observe all backcountry regulations.

All Backcountry Use Permits must be obtained in person and not more than two days in advance of your departure. Visitors obtaining a backcountry permit with trips dates between Memorial Day and September 10 will pay a per-person, per-night permit fee. Backcountry permit fees apply for group members that are 9 years or older. The fee for backpackers/boaters is \$3 per-person per-night. The group per night fee is capped at \$15 dollars per night. The fee for stock parties (horses/mules/llamas) is \$5 per-person per night. There is no cap on the group per night fee.

Backcountry permit fees are separate from the \$25 fee paid to make an advance reservation and will be collected at the backcountry office when you pick up your permit.

Each campsite has restrictions on group size, stock use, boating access, wood fires, and length of stay. (Campsite restrictions are listed on pages 6–11.) The maximum number of nights one can remain at a single site is three unless otherwise indicated. With the exception of four campsites, we allow only one party at each campsite. If your party size exceeds the campsite limit, you will need to obtain a second permit and be prepared to cook and sleep as separate groups.

Advance Reservations

Backcountry campsites may be reserved in advance. The reservation fee for each trip is \$25 regardless of the number of nights or number of people in a single trip. Groups that exceed the maximum number of people allowed at a campsite must split into multiple groups and submit a reservation request for each group.

A trip is defined as a contiguous itinerary that enters and then exits the backcountry at a trailhead or developed area. An itinerary that requires vehicular transportation between trailheads during the trip would constitute another trip and require an additional reservation and/or permit.

Application Procedures

Reservation requests must be submitted on the Backcountry Permit Reservation application. Additional worksheets are available from the Central Backcountry Office or on the park website at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountrytripplanner.htm.

A non-refundable processing fee of \$25 must be submitted with each application and can be made with check, money order, or credit card. The fee is for obtaining a reservation, not for taking a trip, and will be deposited only upon confirmation of a reservation. Once the reservation has been made the fee is no longer refundable even if the trip is canceled.

Requests for reservations will be accepted by mail, in person, or by fax with a credit card number. We cannot accept applications by e-mail. Reservation applications may be submitted anytime after January 1; however, to ensure that your application arrives during a time when the Central Backcountry Office is staffed we recommend waiting until March 1 to

submit your application.

We begin processing reservation requests on April 1. All applications received on or before April 1 will be processed in a lottery. Applications received after April 1 will be processed in the order they are received, after the lottery applications are processed.

Successful applicants will receive a confirmation letter by email. This confirmation notice is then exchanged for the actual Backcountry Use Permit, which must be obtained in person at a Backcountry Permit Office in the park, not more than two days before the first camping date. Reservations are held only until 10 AM on the day of your trip. If you are delayed, you may hold your reservation by calling the phone number shown on the confirmation notice. Reservations that have not been confirmed or exchanged for backcountry permits will be canceled and the campsites made available for other parties.

Only a portion of backcountry campsites will be reserved in advance. We leave some sites open in each area each night for people without reservations. Consequently, if you can be flexible in your choice of campsites, you may decide to wait until you arrive in the park to reserve your site(s) and obtain your permit.

We strongly encourage you to develop a second itinerary that may explore some

less popular areas, in the event your first choice is not available. If you are camping with stock or requesting sites in one of our more popular areas such as Slough Creek, Bechler, or Shoshone lake, your chances of getting your first choices are best if you submit your request by April 1.

Please submit only one request per party per trip. Duplicate applications slow down the reservation process and may result in duplicate charges, overlapping itineraries, and unused campsites.

Please do not submit requests for campsites with an opening date prior to those specified in the site limitations on pages 6–11 and on the Backcountry Reservation Instructions. The opening dates represent the average date that a campsite becomes accessible due to a decrease in snow pack, flooding, or dangerous stream crossings. In some years campsites may not open by the dates that you have reserved. Additionally, we occasionally have to close campsites due to bear activity or wildfire. In these instances, reserved itineraries will be modified to the best of our ability when you pick up your permit.

If your plans change and you cannot use any, or part, of your backcountry use permit or reservation, you are encouraged to call (307) 344-2160 to cancel your trip. A refund will not be provided, but you will allow other campers access to those sites.

Undesignated and Winter Camping

Camping in undesignated sites is occasionally allowed under certain circumstances and with special approval on a case-by-case basis. Stringent policies govern this privilege, and adherence to Leave No Trace skills and ethics is required. Camping in designated campsites is not required during the winter season. For more information about camping in undesignated sites and/or for a booklet about winter camping, contact the Central Backcountry Office at (307) 344-2160 or e-mail us at YELL_Backcountry_Office@nps.gov.

Where to Get Your Permit

For the best information on trail conditions, obtain your permits from the backcountry office closest to where your trip begins. From June through August, Backcountry Use Permits are generally available 7 days a week between 8 AM and 4:30 PM (some stations close for lunch) at the following locations:

- Bechler Ranger Station
- Canyon Visitor Education Center
- Mammoth Backcountry Office
- Snake River Ranger Station
- West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
- Bridge Bay Ranger Station
- Grant Village Backcountry Office
- Old Faithful Ranger Station
- Tower Ranger Station

Permits for boating trips must be obtained at Bridge Bay, Grant Village, or Snake River backcountry offices. During the spring, fall, and winter, ranger station and visitor center hours may vary. To obtain a Backcountry Use Permit during these seasons, call (307) 344-2160 or (307) 344-7381.



Hiking in Bear Country

Yellowstone Bear Management Areas

Eliminating human entry and disturbance in specific areas can prevent human-bear conflicts and provide areas where bears can pursue natural behavioral patterns and other social activities. Types of restrictions include area and trail closures, no off-trail travel, a recommended party size of four or more people, and travel limited to established trails or daylight hours. Check the campsite listings on pages 6-7 for restrictions that may apply to individual campsites. To reduce human related impacts on bears in high density grizzly bear habitat, we have established the following areas (see map, page 3) and restrictions. For more detailed maps visit <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/bear-management-areas.htm>

A Firehole: Area (including Firehole Freight Road and Firehole Lake Road) is closed March 10 through the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. The Mary Mountain Trail from the Nez Perce trailhead to Mary Lake is closed March 10 through June 15. Through travel from the Canyon trailhead is not allowed; however, travel is allowed from the Canyon trailhead to Mary Lake and back. Streamside use is allowed from the point where Nez Perce Creek crosses the main road to a point one mile upstream along Nez Perce Creek.

B Richard's Pond: Area is closed March 10 through the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. From the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through September 30, Duck Creek, from the park boundary upstream to the Campanula Creek/Richard's Creek fork, is open to streamside travel. The area upstream from Campanula Creek/Richard's Creek fork is closed from March 10 through September 30.

C Gneiss Creek: Area is closed March 10 through June 30. From July 1 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited).

D Gallatin: From May 1 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited). A minimum group size of four or more is recommended for hiking and camping.

E Blacktail: Area is closed March 10 through June 30.

F Washburn: Area is closed August 1 through November 10. From March 10 through July 31, the area is open by special permit only. Contact the Tower Ranger Station for permit information.

G Antelope: Area is closed March 10 through November 10. The Dunraven Road and related turnouts are open. From May 25 through November 10, foot travel is allowed on the Old Road Trail from Tower Falls Campground to the Buffalo Picnic Area.

H Mirror Plateau: From May 15 through November 10, the area is open to day use only with the exception that from July 1 through August 14 overnight camping is permitted for a combined total of 14 nights per summer.

I Pelican Valley: Area is closed April 1 through July 3. From July 4 through November 10, the area is open to day-use only between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM.

J1 Clear Creek: From April 1 through August 10, travel is only allowed on the east shore from Nine Mile trailhead to Park Point. Off-trail travel is prohibited. On August 11 all trails open and off-trail travel is permitted.

J2 Clear Creek: From April 1 through July 14, travel is only allowed on the east shore trail from Park Point to Beaverdam Creek. Off-trail travel is prohibited. Open campsites are 5E2, 5E3, 5E4, and 5E6 (no travel away from campsite). All other campsites are closed. On July 15, all campsites open and off-trail travel is permitted.

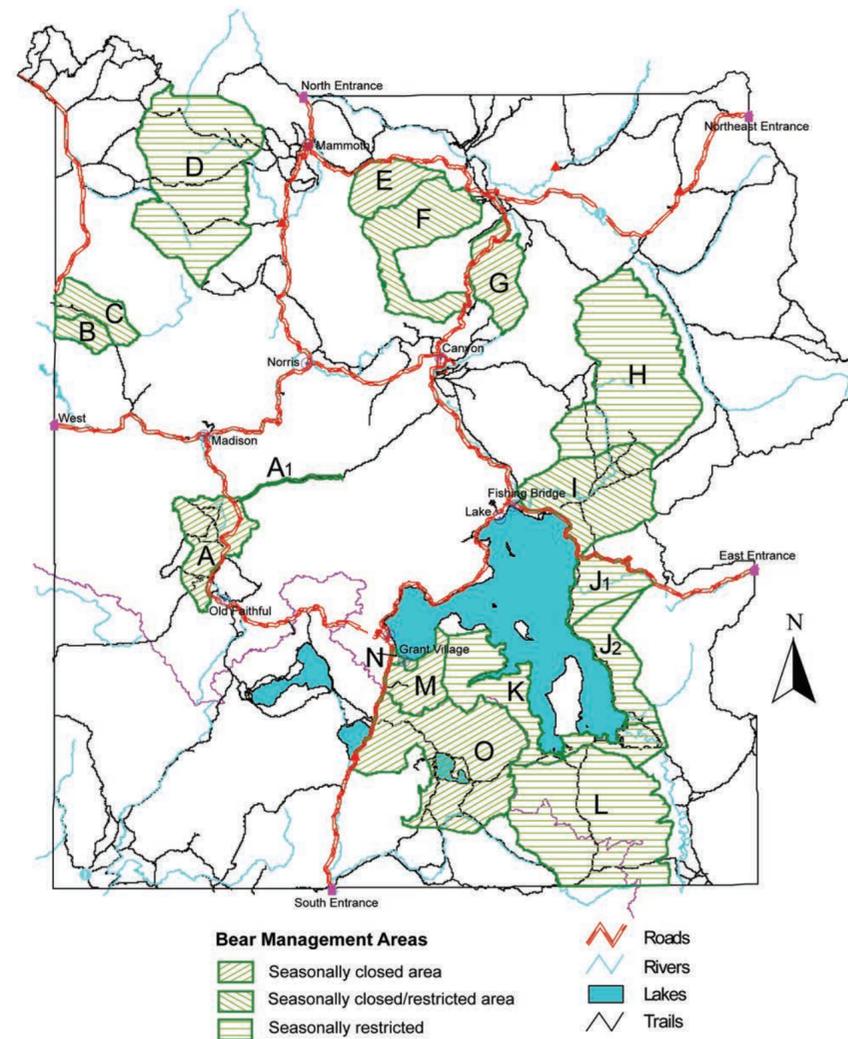
K Lake Spawn: From May 15 through July 14, no off-trail travel allowed and the Trail Creek Trail between Cabin Creek and Outlet Creek is closed. Open Campsites are 7L5, 7L6, 7L7, 7L8, 7M3, 7M4, 7M5, 6A3, 6A4, and 6B1 (no travel away from campsite). On July 15 all campsites open and off trail travel is permitted.

L Two Ocean: From March 10 through July 14, and August 22 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited). From July 15 through August 21, a permit is required for persons wishing to travel away from designated trails. Contact the South Entrance Ranger Station for permit information.

M Riddle/Solution: Area is closed April 30 through July 14.

N Grant Village: Campground opens June 25 or earlier if bear use of the area spawning streams is over prior to that time. If bears are still frequenting the spawning streams after June 20, the campground loops adjacent to the stream(s) will remain closed until bear activity ceases. Campground closes October 16.

O Heart Lake: Area is closed April 1 through June 30. Access to the area on July 1 may be delayed if conditions warrant.



Yellowstone's bear management areas are instrumental in minimizing human related impacts on bears in high density grizzly bear habitat. Types of restrictions include area closures, trail closures, and travel limited to daylight hours or to established trails.



Those who have packed far up into grizzly country know that the presence of even one grizzly on the land elevates the mountains, deepens the canyons, chills the winds, brightens the stars, darkens the forest, and quickens the pulse of all who enter it. They know that when a bear dies, something sacred in every living thing interconnected with that realm...also dies.

—John Murray

Backpacking and Bears

To learn more about bears, read one of the numerous books that are available at visitor centers in the park or from Yellowstone.org. It is quite reasonable to fear bears, but be aware that many bear stories are greatly exaggerated. Your chances of being injured on the way to Yellowstone are actually far greater than being injured by a bear. However, people have been injured and killed by bears in Yellowstone. Your safety is not guaranteed. Read the information below to learn good bear avoidance behavior.

Most attacks are caused by surprising a bear, getting between a mother bear and her cubs, or getting too close to a bear which has food. The chances of being attacked by a bear can be reduced by avoiding the above situations and taking the following precautions:

- **Be alert.** Watch for tracks, excrement, diggings or other bear sign. Do not wear headphones while hiking. Carry binoculars and scan ahead periodically. If you see a bear cub, the mother is close by.
- **Don't hike alone or at night.** Bears travel (often on the trails) and feed mainly at dawn, dusk, and at night. Statistics show that parties of three or more are safer than solo hikers. Groups tend to make more noise and appear more formidable to a bear. Also, if there is an attack, members of the group can assist the injured while others go for help.
- **Make noise.** Talk, sing, clap your hands, anything to let a bear know you are present. Don't rely on bells; usually they are too quiet. Shout often, especially when traveling upwind, near streams, or in thick brush.
- **Stay on designated trails.** You increase your risk of surprising a bear when hiking off-trail.
- **Avoid carcasses.** Never camp in a campsite that has a fresh carcass nearby. It is very risky to approach a carcass; a bear may be out of sight guarding its food. Report dead animals near a trail or campsite to the nearest ranger station.
- **Avoid bringing smelly food.** A bear's acute sense of smell can detect odors from great distances. Leave bacon, tuna, ham, scented deodorants and other odorous items behind. Dry foods are lighter to carry and not as aromatic.

If you encounter a bear:

- Stay calm
- Do not run or make sudden movements
- Back away slowly
- Talk quietly to the bear, do not shout
- Do not drop your pack
- Avoid looking directly at the bear

If you encounter a bear and it does not see you, keep out of sight and detour as far away as possible behind and downwind of the bear. Climbing a tree is popular advice, but not always practical. All black bears, all grizzly cubs, and some adult grizzlies can climb trees if

the spacing of the branches is right. Climb a tree only if the bear is far away, the tree is nearby, and one in which you can climb at least 15 feet. Running to a tree may provoke a bear to chase you. You cannot outrun a bear!

If the bear charges you, stand your ground and use bear spray if you have it. Some bears may bluff charge, then veer off or stop abruptly, allowing you to slowly back away. If the bear makes physical contact, drop to the ground, lie face down, and clasp your hands behind your neck; your pack may shield your body. It may take all the courage you have, but lie still and remain silent, resistance will only provoke the bear. Before moving, listen and look around carefully to make sure the bear is no longer nearby.

In exceptionally rare circumstances a bear may come to view humans as prey. This is often a hiker's biggest fear, but this type of encounter is extremely rare. If you feel that a bear has been following you, be firm and aggressive, look big, yell, throw rocks or sticks, and use bear spray.

Night attacks on tents are extremely rare, but if this happens you should defend yourself aggressively. Any bear entering your tent at night doesn't have good intentions; if it attacks fight back with any resource you have available to show that you are not easy prey.

Do You Know Your Bears?

A line drawn under the big toe across the top of the pad runs through the top half of the little toe on black bear tracks and through or below the bottom half of the little toe on grizzly tracks.



Food and Bears

Don't let your actions cause a bear or other animal to be destroyed. A bear has an acute sense of smell. If you leave food out and unattended, you are inviting a bear into your camp. Just one incident of a bear obtaining human food may mean a dead bear. Why? A bear conditioned to human food is more likely to be aggressive and, subsequently, to injure or kill people in an attempt to obtain this easy source of food. When such a bear poses a risk of injuring someone, it is often necessary to destroy that bear.

Samples of odorous items which you are required to hang include all food, garbage, empty or full beverage cans, coolers, lip balm, sunscreens and lotions, toothpaste, food paniers, horse feed, some medications, clothes worn while cooking, eating utensils which have not been properly cleaned, and any article that has an odor. Keep all food and odorous items out of sleeping bags, tents, and your stuff sacks.

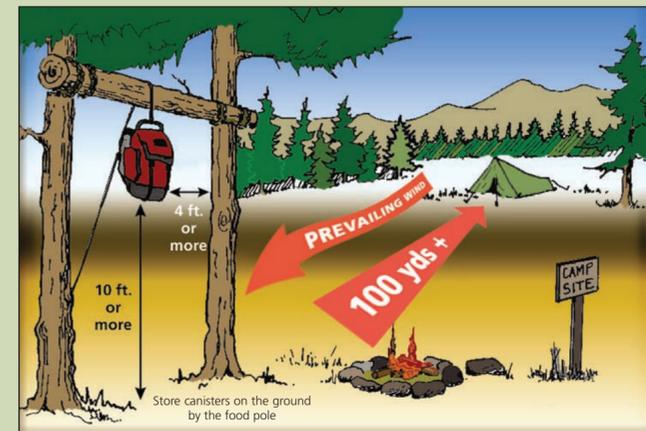
Before starting a day hike or backcountry trip check at a Visitor Center or Backcountry Office for any recent bear sightings or warnings or view the Backcountry Situation Report online at go.nps.gov/yellbackcountryreport. Look for posted warning signs at the trailhead. Report bear sightings or encounters to the nearest Ranger Station or Visitor Center.

Bear Pepper Sprays

The best way to avoid being injured by a bear is to take all the necessary precautions. However, if these measures fail and you are charged by a bear, your reactions can, in many cases, defuse the situation. Bear spray is a good last line of defense that has been highly effective in the reported cases where it was used. The use of bear spray is especially appropriate if you are attacked in your tent at night. If you successfully use pepper spray to stop a bear, leave the area immediately. The spray is effective for a short time and is less effective the second time around. Bear spray is effective only at distances of 10-30 feet and is adversely affected by wind, cold temperatures, and age. Carefully read the instructions, know how to use the spray and be aware of its limitations. Be sure to check the expiration date. If you decide to carry bear spray, the canister must be immediately available, not in your pack.

In choosing a pepper spray please consider the following: Purchase only products clearly labeled "for deterring attacks by bears." Concentration should be between 1 and 2% capsaicin. The minimum net weight should be 225 grams or 7.9 oz. The spray should be delivered in a shotgun-cloud pattern at a minimum range of 25 feet and EPA approved.

Use your spray only as a last ditch deterrent on the bear. Do not spray around your campsite, tent, camping gear, or in any bear habitat.



Recommended camp setup in bear country

Keep your sleeping area at least 100 yards from the cooking and food-storage area. A food storage pole is provided at most campsites, so that food and other attractants can be suspended. You need to provide your own rope (35 feet recommended).

- Suspend items 10 feet above ground and 4 feet out from tree trunks.
- Certain portable bear resistant food containers (BRFCs) may be used for food storage in lieu of hanging. Contact a backcountry office for further information regarding approved containers.
- BRFCs must be left on the ground underneath the food pole or in the cooking area.
- Make sure all food and odorous items will fit into a container before starting your trip. Store your food immediately upon entering camp and keep all food and trash secured any time they're not in use.
- Store all odorous items including food, trash, toothpaste, deodorant and lotion.
- Keep a clean camp; remove any food scraps and trash from the fire pit. Pack out all trash.
- Strain food particles from dishwater and pack out with trash. Scatter dishwater at least 100 yards from tent site.
- Never eat or store food in your tent. Sleep in a tent, not under the stars.
- Avoid placing your tent near dead standing trees.



Entering the Park From a National Forest

When possible permits should be obtained in person from the backcountry office nearest the start of your trip. However, if you are entering the park via a national forest trail and cannot stop at a permitting office, please contact the Central Backcountry Office in advance to make other arrangements for obtaining your permit.



CDT

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) utilize parts of Yellowstone's trail system. For further information on these trails, contact the Central Backcountry office.

Trails and Trailheads

Maintained trails are marked by orange metal tags on trees and posts. Some trails may be hard to follow due to infrequent use, missing markers, recent fires, or large meadows where the trail tread is not clear. We strongly recommend that you carry a compass and topographic map and know how to use them. Distance and directional signs are at most trail junctions. Yellowstone has very few designated loop trails; however, loops can be devised by combining several existing trails. Doing this generally requires some segments of backtracking or entering and exiting at different trailheads. Leaving a vehicle at one trailhead and coming out at a different trailhead requires two vehicles or a shuttle. For a list of licensed shuttle providers contact the Central Backcountry Office or go online to www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/transbusn.htm. Parking is available at all trailheads. Overnight camping at trailheads is not allowed.

Where and When To Go

When planning your backcountry trip, remember that many of Yellowstone's trails are more than 7,000 feet above sea level. Most areas have some snow until late May or early June, and some areas (especially mountain passes) are snow-covered until mid- to late July. In addition, many routes require fording rivers and creeks. In spring and early summer, some of the creeks and streams in the park can be 25 feet wide, 3-6 feet deep, extremely cold, and swiftly running. It's hard to tell by the map whether or not a drainage, stream, or river will be a raging torrent or merely a swollen creek.

Following is a breakdown of when many areas in the park are typically free of snow or standing water and can be reached safely (refer to campsite map on pages 6-11). To be sure that a route can be accessed at the time you plan to take your trip, call the Central Backcountry Office. During June through November you can also view current backcountry conditions online at go.nps.gov/yellbackcountryreport. Keep in mind when reading through the time progression that the listing is cumulative.

Early May: 1A, 1Y, 1R and 2H1-6 sites.

Mid- to late May: 3C2, 3C3, 3L1, the 2S sites.

Early June: 1B1, 1G sites, 2C1, 2C2, 2C3, 2H8, 2H9, OG1, OD sites, OA1, OA2, OA3.

Mid- to late June: WF1, WB and WC sites, 1C sites and 1F sites, 3P1, 4F1, 4C, 4D, 4E, 4G, and 4R sites, 8G1, Shoshone Lake sites (8Q3, 8Q4, 8R1, 8R3, 8R4, 8R5, 8S1, 8S0, 8S2), some of Yellowstone Lake except 7M4 shore sites and those closed for bear management, 5E sites, and most Old Faithful area sites except OE1.

Early July: 3P sites, 3C4, 3L, lower 3M, 3F, 3T and 3U sites, 8M1, 8M2, 8Q1, 8R2, 8S4, 8S5, 8S7, 8T1, Heart Lake 8H sites and 8J sites, 8A sites, 9U sites, WA1.

Mid- to late July: WD sites, WE sites, Fawn Pass and Electric Pass, 2Y1, the trail connecting the 2S and 3P sites (Bliss Pass), 4M2, 4B and 4W (Wapiti Lake) sites, 4P1, Specimen Ridge trail, all Yellowstone Lake sites, 6B1, 6B4, 6C and lower 6D sites, 6M and 6Y sites, 8Q6, 8Q7, 8T3, 8T5, some 8B and 8C sites depending on the Snake River ford at 8K7, 7G1, 7G2, OE1, and 9A sites and 9B1-9B6 sites in the Bechler area.

August: Bighorn Pass, Yellowstone River fords south of Yellowstone Lake, 6T sites, 6B2, 6A4 by foot, the upper 6D sites and Eagle Pass, 9B7-9B9, 9D sites (Bechler River Canyon), 8P1, 8P2, most trails & campsites.

Only limited areas are accessible in May and early June. In general, you will encounter fewer closures, dryer trails, lower stream crossings, and fewer mosquitoes if you travel later rather than earlier in the season. For your safety and pleasure, please plan your itinerary to avoid high elevations and major river crossings early in the season. Certain areas may be closed during the early season if conditions are considered unsafe. In addition, please review the list of Bear Management Areas on pages 2-3 for seasonal restrictions and closures.

Regulations

The National Park Service is required by law "to preserve" park resources and the values and purposes for which the park was established, as well as "to provide for the enjoyment" of those resources and values by such means as will leave them "unimpaired for future generations." You can help us by obeying the following regulations:

- Camping outside designated sites, at sites for which you are not permitted, or within 100 feet of a water source is prohibited. Digging a trench or leveling the ground is prohibited.
- Food, garbage, cooking gear, and other odoriferous items must be suspended at least 10 feet above the ground at night and when unattended or in an approved Bear Resistant Food Container.
- Carry out your trash; if you pack it in, pack it out.
- Bury human waste at least 100 feet from a water source, campsite, or trail. Putting items other than human waste and toilet paper in composting or pit toilets is prohibited.
- Bathing, soaking or swimming in water entirely of thermal origin is prohibited.
- Polluting or contaminating any water source (with any soap, waste, food, etc.) is prohibited.
- Tossing, throwing, or rolling rocks or other items inside caverns, into valleys, canyons, or caves, down hillsides or mountain sides, or into thermal features is prohibited.
- Bicycles, wheeled vehicles (except wheelchairs), and operating motorized equipment in the backcountry are prohibited.
- Feeding or intentionally disturbing wildlife is prohibited.
- Collecting or disturbing natural features, plants, rocks, antlers, cultural, or archaeological resources is prohibited.
- Impeding or disturbing horses or pack animals is prohibited.

Interested in a guided trip?

Visit www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm for a list of companies permitted to conduct overnight backcountry trips in Yellowstone.

Campfires

Open wood fires are permitted only in established fire rings at designated campsites. Use only dead and down wood which is wrist size or smaller so that it can be burned completely before you leave the campsite. Make certain the fire is cold before leaving your site. Restrictions may be in place due to dry conditions and forest fire danger. At some sites fires are not permitted any time of year; back-packing stoves are allowed at all campsites. Those sites which do not allow wood fires are specified with the initials NWF on pages 6-11.

The Following are Prohibited in the Backcountry:

Weapons other than legally permitted firearms, traps and nets, pets, motorized equipment, wheeled vehicles, and hay are prohibited in the backcountry. We do allow wheelchairs and trained service animals in the backcountry. Due to personal safety concerns, please contact the Central Backcountry Office for further information before taking a wheelchair or service animal into the backcountry.



Party Size and Large Groups

The maximum party size allowed at any one campsite ranges from 4 to 12 persons. Refer to the campsite lists on pages 6-11 to determine the maximum occupancy of each campsite.

The national *Leave No Trace* program encourages small group size. This also increases your chances of obtaining your itinerary. It is typically difficult for large groups to obtain an adequate number of campsites. If a large group cannot be broken up and your party exceeds the maximum number of people allowed at a campsite, you must obtain a permit for an additional site(s). Reservation requests for groups should be submitted on separate forms broken up into suitable party sizes, but may be submitted together.

Groups may travel together, but should be prepared to cook and camp separately. Multiple parties are not allowed to congregate at a single site.



Be Prepared

Weather in Yellowstone is Highly Unpredictable

Many warm, sunny days abruptly turn into fierce stormy afternoons. Strong, gusty, south-to-southwest winds are common each afternoon in Yellowstone. Sudden high winds, rain, and lightning storms can follow. If you are hiking or boating when these storms approach, get off the water, shores, ridges, and open places. Thick forests of equal height offer better protection than meadows.

Backpackers in Yellowstone may be surprised to experience winter-like weather any time of year. Rain, wind, sleet, and snow can be deadly if proper precautions are not taken. Always bring rain gear and extra clothes for warmth. Nighttime temperatures can drop into the 30s and 40s. Depending on elevation, temperatures may even fall into the 20s with a light freeze in July.

Summer daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s and 80s. June can be cool and rainy; July and August tend to be drier, with afternoon thundershowers common. High water from spring runoff can make stream crossings hazardous and some trails wet and muddy until mid-July. Check current conditions online at go.nps.gov/yellbackcountryreport.

Thermal Features and Geyser Basins

Burns from thermal features are a common cause of serious injury and death in the park. Following large animal tracks through geyser basins is no insurance of safety. Foot travel in all thermal areas must be confined to boardwalks or trails that are maintained for such travel and are marked by official signs.



For your safety and for the protection of thermal features in Yellowstone, it is illegal to swim or bathe in any water that is entirely of thermal origin. Many springs and pools in Yellowstone are extremely acidic or very alkaline; only a small number are neutral. Many thermal features also contain algae, bacteria, and fungi that are found nowhere else in the world. Soaking or wading in the pools can destroy these delicate life forms. Altering the status of any thermal feature is prohibited. Please don't put rocks, sticks, or any objects into them. Doing so may clog the vents and cause their extinction. Food and smoking are not allowed in thermal areas. Be alert for bears in geyser basins in spring and early summer. Stock are not permitted in thermal areas.

Ticks and Mosquitoes

From mid-March to mid-July, grassy, brushy, low elevation areas (4,000-6,500 feet) are ideal tick habitat in Yellowstone. Wear repellent even on shoes, socks, cuffs, and pant legs. Tuck your pant legs into your socks and your shirt into your pants. Check your clothes and your body often.

During the summer season, mosquitoes are common and widespread around lakes and streams, especially in wet areas. They are most intense during June and July and tend to diminish in mid- to late August. Repellents, netting, and wearing clothing with long pants and sleeves are your best options, after that, patience and forbearance are required.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the major killer of unprepared recreationists. It is the lowering of a person's inner-core temperature, followed by rapid, progressive mental and physical collapse. Each year outdoor recreationists die from it. Most of these deaths could have been prevented with prior knowledge and appropriate action. To avoid hypothermia: Stay dry, stay out of the wind, avoid getting chilled. Put on rain gear before you get wet and warm clothes before you start shivering. Use a hat and gloves to conserve vital body heat.

When a person is wet, the body cools rapidly as moisture evaporates; a breeze increases the rate of heat loss dramatically. When clothes get wet, they lose much of their insulating value: cotton and down lose the most, wool loses less, synthetic materials such as fleece lose the least and dry out quickly. Most hypothermia cases happen in air temperatures of 30-50° Fahrenheit.

Warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering; immobile, fumbling hands; slow, slurred speech; stumbling, lurching gait; exhaustion; memory lapses, incoherence, and drowsiness. Watch yourself and others for symptoms. Be aware of the "denial syndrome" in which the victim negates any problems, "I'm OK, really!"

If you cannot stay warm and dry, assess and alter your plans. Remember that you are only as strong as the weakest person in your group. Persistent or violent shivering is a clear warning that you are on the verge of hypothermia. Find shelter from the storm and make camp. Get out of wind and rain. Remove wet clothing. Get into dry clothing and a sleeping bag. Administer warm drinks. Never give alcohol.

Emergency Communication & Cell Phones

Cell phone coverage throughout the park is variable and intermittent. Several different companies provide coverage, each in different areas. Your ability to transmit a call depends on your carrier and your location. Coverage in the backcountry is even more unpredictable. Backcountry cell phone users should not count on their cell phones as a reliable means of communication in case of an emergency. Satellite Phones typically have better coverage, but even they are not 100% reliable due to varying satellite coverage.

Regardless of whether or not you carry a phone, all backcountry visitors should have a plan for what to do in case of an emergency. The best insurance for a safe and enjoyable trip rests with your ability to exercise good judgment, avoid unnecessary risks, and assume responsibility for your own safety while in the backcountry.

Stream Crossings

Few of Yellowstone's rivers or streams have bridges, and many are not fordable until July or later. Even in late summer, water levels can rise quickly after rainstorms or from snowmelt in the high country on warm afternoons. The water can be cold, fast, and more than thigh-deep, making any attempt to ford perilous. Trying to ford deep, swift water has resulted in loss of gear, injury, and death. Carefully check your itinerary on a topographic map for stream crossings, and ask about ford conditions at a backcountry office before beginning your trip. Don't be afraid to turn around if conditions are dangerous. Before you cross make sure all members (especially smaller members) of your party are comfortable with fording.

- During spring and early summer, stream depths are likely to change from morning to afternoon. Streams which can be crossed in the morning may rise and become dangerous to cross by afternoon as snow melts in higher elevations.
- Seal important items in plastic bags and put dangling items inside your pack before crossing.
- Search up- and downstream to find the safest place to ford. You don't have to cross where the trail meets the river. Wider sections are generally slower and shallower.
- Do not ford barefooted, stay sideways to the current, and beware of deceptive currents. Don't look at moving water when crossing; keep your eyes on the opposite bank.
- Use a long sturdy stick to make your crossing safer. If you are part of a group, hold hands or interlock arms.
- Use extreme caution if you use a fallen tree or logjam; they can be very slippery and trap you if you fall.
- Undo the waist and chest straps of your pack; a full pack could drag you down. If you fall while fording in deep water, release your pack and swim.

Water Treatment

Backcountry waters may look clean and refreshing, but contaminants such as the microscopic protozoan *Giardia lamblia* may be present. Ingesting *Giardia* can cause Giardiasis, an intestinal disorder which appears weeks after your trip. As a safeguard against Giardiasis, other parasites and bacteria, we recommend that you boil, filter, or chemically treat all drinking water. Any water brought to a boil, even at high altitudes, should be safe. For additional assurance boil water for one minute. Filters should be capable of removing particles of 1 micron or smaller and stated as being effective against *Giardia*.



Recommended Publications

Pre-planning is essential to a successful backcountry experience. Yellowstone Forever, a non-profit educational partner of the park, stocks a number of backcountry guide books and topographic maps.

To order, contact:
Yellowstone Forever, P.O. Box 117,
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190,
www.Yellowstone.org
406-848-2400

Backcountry Campsites

NWF=No Wood Fires
 BMA=Bear Management Area (see pages 2-3)
 EA=Easy Access Site (site is within 2 miles of trailhead)

Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions	Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions						
Mammoth Area (see page 10 for Yellowstone River Trail & Rescue/Lava Creek area campsites)													
1B1	10	0	Big Horn Pass Trail • EA	6A3	12	0	Trail Point • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • No travel from campsite 5/15-7/14 • Can anchor sailboat						
1C1	10	0	Straight Creek South	6A4	12	0	Trail Bay • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • No travel from campsite 5/15-7/14 • Can anchor sailboat						
1C2	10	6	Straight Creek North • Stock=llamas only	6B1	12	20	Lower Ford • No off-trail travel 5/15-7/14 • 1 night limit for stock • River may not be fordable until late July/early August						
1C4	10	6	Winter Creek	6B2	8	0	Upper Ford • Closed 5/15-7/14 • River may not be fordable until late July/early August						
1C5	10	6	Winter Creek SW	6B4	12	20	Beaverdam Meadow • Closed 4/1-7/14						
1F1	12	20	Fawn Creek • Stock Only • Unavailable if 1G5 occupied.	6C1	12	15	Colter Meadows • Keep stock from spring source						
1F2	10	0	Fawn Lake	6C2	12	25	River's Edge • 1.5 miles west of main trail						
1G2	10	0	Gardner's Hole	6C3	10	8	Turret View • Stock=llamas only						
1G3	10	0	Gardner River	6D1	12	10	Lower Mountain Creek						
1G4	10	0	Upper Gardner River	6D2	12	0	Mountain Creek Ford						
1G5	12	25	Soldier's Corral • Stock Only • Unavailable if 1F1 occupied	6D3	12	25	Mountain Creek Stock • Stock Only						
Tower Area Campsites (see page 10 for Hellroaring Creek area campsites)													
2B1	10	16	Buffalo Plateau	6D5	12	20	Mountain Creek						
2C1	8	0	Lower Coyote Creek	6D6	12	25	Howell Creek						
2C2	8	0	Coyote Creek	6D7	12	0	Table Mountain						
2C3	10	16	Coyote Creek Meadow • Stock Only	6D8	12	10	Upper Howell Creek • Often has snow until July • No stock after 9/1						
2S1*	8	12	Lower Slough Creek	All 6M sites except 6M7, no off-trail travel except from 7/15 through 8/21. Must obtain a permit for off-trail travel at the South Entrance. See Two Ocean BMA (p. 3).									
2S2*	6	0	Hornaday Creek	6M3	8	0	Mariposa Lake • NWF						
2S3*	8	0	Slough Creek	6M4	12	25	Two Ocean Trail Jct • No stock before 7/20						
2S4*	8	0	Elk Tongue	6M5	12	25	Upper Passage Creek • No stock before 7/20						
2S6*	8	0	Upper Slough Creek	6M7	12	0	Fox Creek						
2S7*	12	20	Upper Slough Ck Stock S. • Stock Only • 1 party per night in either 2S7 or 2S8	6T1	12	20	South Thorofare • Creek may not be fordable until mid- to late-July						
2S8*	12	20	Upper Slough Creek Stock N • Same as 2S7	6T2	12	0	North Thorofare • On north side of Thorofare Creek						
*Only three nights allowed per permit for all 2S-sites from June 15 to Sept. 15													
2Y1	8	0	Agate Creek	6Y2	12	0	South Yell River • River may not be fordable until mid- to late-July						
Lamar River & Pebble Creek Area Campsites													
3C2	12	20	Lower Cache Creek • 2 night limit for stock	6Y4	12	25	East Confluence • Limited picketing for stock						
3C3	12	25	Cache Creek	6Y5	12	0	Cliff Creek						
3C4	12	0	Upper Cache Creek	6Y6	12	25	Three Mile Bend						
3F1	6	0	Cold Creek	6Y7	12	25	Yellowstone Meadows • Stock Only						
3F2	12	25	Lemon City	7G1	12	25	Grouse Creek • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Unavailable to stock if 7G2 occupied by stock						
3L1	12	8	Cache Creek Ford N • Stock=llamas only	7G2	12	25	Lower Grouse Creek • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Unavailable to stock if 7G1 occupied by stock						
3L2	12	0	Cache Creek Ford S.	Snake River Area (see page 10 for Heart Lake and Basin Creek area campsites)									
3L3	12	0	Lower Lamar	8A1	8	0	Beula Lake South						
3L4	12	0	Lower Lamar Bench	8A2	6	0	Beula Lake						
3L6	12	20	Middle Lamar Stock • Stock Only • 2 night limit	8C1	8	0	Snake Hot Springs • May not be fordable until mid-July						
3L7	12	0	Middle Lamar	8C2	12	25	Nine Mile Meadow						
3L8	12	0	Timothy Creek	8C4	12	6	Snake River						
3L9	12	20	Warm Spring Meadow	8C6	8	0	Snake River Ford						
3M1	12	25	Appaloosa Meadows • 2 night limit for stock	8C7	12	25	Snake Hot Springs Stock • Stock Only						
3M2	12	0	Lower Miller Creek	8C9	12	25	Crooked Creek						
3M3	12	20	Miller Creek	8G1	6	8	Shoshone Meadows • 1 night limit • NWF • Stock=llamas only						
3M5	12	0	Canoe Lake Junction	8O2	6	0	Outlet Creek • No travel east of Outlet Lk. before 7/15						
3M6	12	0	Hoodoo Basin	8P1	8	6	Pitchstone • Stock use not recommended						
3M7	12	20	Boundary • No stock before August 1 • 1 night stock limit	8P2	8	0	Phantom						
3P1	12	0	Lower Pebble Creek	Bechler Area Campsites									
3P2	12	0	Pebble Creek	All Bechler area campsites are not reservable for camping dates prior to 7/10. Before July 10, these campsites may be available for in-person permits as conditions allow.									
3P3	6	0	Bliss Pass Jct	9A0*	12	25	Upper Boundary Creek • Stock Only						
3P4	12	20	Upper Pebble Creek	9A1*	12	20	Boundary Creek Meadows • Off-trail travel required • 2 night limit						
3P5	12	0	Upper Pebble Creek Ford • EA	9A2	12	0	Upper Boundary Creek						
3T2	12	12	Mist Creek Meadows • 2 night limit	9A3	12	0	Dunanda Falls • 2 night limit						
3T3	12	25	Mist Creek Pass • 2 night limit	9A4	12	25	Talus Terrace						
3U1	12	25	Willow Creek Stock	9A5	12	25	Buffalo Lake						
3U2	12	0	Willow Creek	9A6	12	25	Robinson Creek						
3U3	12	0	Little Saddle Creek	9A7	12	0	Little Robinson Creek						
3U4	12	25	Cold Creek Jct • Stock Only	9B0*	12	25	Three Rivers Meadow • 2 night limit • Stock Only • NWF						
Canyon Area Campsites (see page 11 for more campsites in the Canyon Area)													
4B1	6	0	Joseph's Coat Spring • Off-trail travel required • 2 night limit	9B1	12	0	Lower Boundary Creek • 2 night limit • NWF						
4B3	12	6	Broad Creek • Off-trail travel required	9B2	12	0	Bechler Ford • 2 night limit • NWF						
4B4	12	10	Wapiti Junction	9B3*	12	25	Trail Spring • Stock Only • 2 night limit						
4C1	8	0	Old Seven Mile Hole • NWF	9B4	12	0	Ouzel Falls • 1 night limit						
4C2	8	0	Sulphur Creek • NWF	9B5	12	0	Colonnade Falls • 1 night limit						
4C3	8	0	Seven Mile Hole • NWF	9B6	12	0	Lower Bechler Canyon Ford • 1 night limit						
4E1	8	0	Washburn Meadows	9B7	12	0	Talus Spring • 1 night limit						
4M2	12	6	Moss Creek	9B8	12	0	Upper Bechler Canyon Ford • 1 night limit						
4R1	8	0	Ribbon Lake West • EA	9B9	12	0	Albright Falls • 2 night limit • NWF						
4R2	8	0	Ribbon Lake North • EA	9C1	12	0	Rocky Ford • 2 night limit						
4W1	12	6	Wrangler Lake	9D1	12	0	Ferris Fork • 1 night limit • NWF						
4W2	8	0	Wapiti Lake Point	9D2	12	0	Gregg Fork • 1 night limit						
4W3	8	0	Wapiti Lake	9D3	12	25	Douglas Knob Meadow • 1 night limit • NWF						
5B1	12	25	Fern Lake	9D4	12	0	Continental Divide • 1 night limit • NWF						
5B2	12	15	Upper Broad Creek	9F1	12	0	Lower Falls River						
Lake East Shore & Thorofare Campsites (see page 9 for Yellowstone Lake boat-camping campsites)													
5E1	12	0	Beaverdam Trail • Trail Access Only • Closed 4/1-7/14	9F2	12	0	Upper Falls River • 1 night limit						
5E3	12	0	Brimstone Point • No off-trail travel 4/1-7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water	9M1*	12	25	Lower Boundary Creek Stock • 2 night limit • NWF						
5E4	12	0	Brimstone Bay • Restrictions same as those for 5E3	9M2*	12	25	Bechler Ford • Stock Only • 2 night limit • NWF						
5E6	12	25	Columbine Meadow • Restrictions same as those for 5E3 • One night limit	9U1	12	25	Falls River Cutoff						
5E7	12	25	Meadow Creek • Closed 4/1-7/14 • Trail access only	9U2	12	0	Mountain Ash Creek						
5E8	12	0	Park Point S • Restrictions same as those for 5E3	9U3	12	0	Mountain Ash Creek Ford • NWF						
5E9	12	0	Park Point N • Restrictions same as those for 5E3	All OD and OG sites are closed from 3/10 until Fri. before Memorial Day. See Firehole BMA (p. 3).									
5L2	8	10	Monument Camp • Trail or Boat Access • Closed 5/15-7/14	OD1	6	0	Fairy Meadows • NWF • EA						
Old Faithful Area Campsites													
OG1	8	0	Sentinel Meadows East • EA	OD2	10	0	Firehole Meadows						
Gallatin Mountain Area Campsites													
WA1	10	20	Gneiss Creek • Closed 3/10-6/30 • No off-trail travel	OD3	6	0	Firehole Falls						
WB1	10	0	Gallatin River	OD4	12	0	Imperial Meadows						
WB3	12	25	Gallatin River Stock • Stock Only • Unavailable if WB4 occupied • No off-trail travel	OD5	6	0	Goose Lake • Handicapped accessible • Reserveable by special needs or bicycle parties only • EA						
WB4	12	25	Upper Gallatin River Stock • Stock Only • Unavailable if WB3 occupied • No off-trail travel	OE1	6	6	Summit Lake • Multiple party site						
WB6	10	0	Upper Gallatin River • No off-trail travel • Opens July 15	All sites are closed from 3/10 until Fri. before Memorial Day. See Firehole BMA (p. 3).									
WC2	10	0	Lower Fan Creek	WA1	10	20	Gneiss Creek • Closed 3/10-6/30 • No off-trail travel						
WC3	12	25	Fan Creek • Stock Only	WB1	10	0	Gallatin River						
WC4	12	25	North Fork Fan Creek • Stock Only	WB3	12	25	Gallatin River Stock • Stock Only • Unavailable if WB4 occupied • No off-trail travel						
WD1	10	0	E Fork Specimen Creek	WB4	12	25	Upper Gallatin River Stock • Stock Only • Unavailable if WB3 occupied • No off-trail travel						
WD2	12	20	Sportsman Lake Meadow • No off-trail travel • No stock before 7/15	WB6	10	0	Upper Gallatin River • No off-trail travel • Opens July 15						
WD3	10	0	Sportsman Lake • No off-trail travel	WC2	10	0	Lower Fan Creek						
WD4	10	0	High Lake Outlet • NWF	WC3	12	25	Fan Creek • Stock Only						
WD5	10	5	High Lake • NWF	WC4	12	25	North Fork Fan Creek • Stock Only						
WD6	12	25	High Lake/Sportsman Jct • Stock Only •	WD1	10	0	E Fork Specimen Creek						
Yellowstone River Area Campsites													
OG1	8	0	Sentinel Meadows East • EA	WD2	12	20	Sportsman Lake Meadow • No off-trail travel • No stock before 7/15						
Snake River Area Campsites													
8B1	8	0	Snake River	WD3	10	0	Sportsman Lake • No off-trail travel						
8B2	8	0	Snake River	WD4	10	0	High Lake Outlet • NWF						
8B3	8	0	Snake River	WD5	10	5	High Lake • NWF						
8B4	8	0	Snake River	WD6	12	25	High Lake/Sportsman Jct • Stock Only •						
8B5	8	0	Snake River	*No overnight stock use allowed prior to July 15th.									
8B6	8	0	Snake River	Legend									
8B7	8	0	Snake River	● Campsites	● Trailheads	--- Trails	— Rivers	— Roads	— Lakes	— Forest Service	— National Park Service	— Private	— State Land
8B8	8	0	Snake River										
8B9	8	0	Snake River										
8B10	8	0	Snake River										
8B11	8	0	Snake River										
8B12	8	0	Snake River										
8B13	8	0	Snake River										
8B14	8	0	Snake River										
8B15	8	0	Snake River										
8B16	8	0	Snake River										
8B17	8	0	Snake River										
8B18	8	0	Snake River										
8B19	8	0	Snake River										
8B20	8	0	Snake River										
8B21	8	0	Snake River										
8B22	8	0	Snake River										
8B23	8	0	Snake River										
8B24	8	0	Snake River										
8B25	8	0	Snake River										
8B26	8	0	Snake River										
8B27	8	0	Snake River										
8B28	8	0	Snake River										
8B29	8	0	Snake River										
8B30	8	0	Snake River										
8B31	8	0	Snake River										
8B32	8	0	Snake River										
8B33	8	0	Snake River										
8B34	8	0	Snake River										
8B35	8	0	Snake River										
8B36	8	0	Snake River										
8B37	8	0	Snake River										
8B38	8	0	Snake River										
8B39	8	0	Snake River										
8B40	8	0	Snake River										
8B41	8	0	Snake River										
8B42	8	0	Snake River										
8B43	8	0	Snake River										
8B44	8	0	Snake River										
8B45	8	0	Snake River										
8B46	8	0	Snake River										
8B47	8	0	Snake River										
8B48	8	0	Snake River										
8B49	8	0	Snake River										
8B50	8	0	Snake River										
8B51	8	0	Snake River										
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8B58	8	0	Snake River										
8B59	8	0	Snake River										
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8B61	8	0	Snake River										
8B62	8	0	Snake River										
8B63	8	0	Snake River										
8B64	8	0	Snake River										
8B65	8	0	Snake River										
8B66	8	0	Snake River										
8B67	8	0	Snake River										
8B68	8	0	Snake River										
8B69	8	0	Snake River										
8B70	8	0	Snake River										
8B71	8	0	Snake River										
8B72	8	0	Snake River										
8B73	8	0	Snake River										
8B74	8	0	Snake River										
8B75	8	0	Snake River										
8B76	8	0	Snake River										
8B77	8	0	Snake River										
8B78	8	0	Snake River										
8B79	8	0	Snake River										
8B80	8	0	Snake River										



Boating

The leading cause of death in Yellowstone's backcountry is cold-water drowning. Water temperatures on Yellowstone, Lewis, and Shoshone lakes are in the 40s (Fahrenheit) and only get up into the 60s by late summer. Survival time is minimal in frigid waters. In addition, sudden strong winds can produce 3–5-foot waves. Boaters in canoes, kayaks, and other small craft must be aware of these hazards and plan accordingly. Recommendations for a safe trip:

- Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Begin early in the morning before the winds come up and avoid open-water crossings. If crossings become necessary, use good judgement and evaluate conditions.
- Get off the water during strong winds and lightning storms. Wait out rough water; often storms subside in the late afternoon and evening.
- Take time to properly pack and balance your load; overloaded boats are dangerous. Use dry bags rather than plastic bags to keep contents dry and provide flotation. A properly loaded boat may float if capsized, while an improperly loaded boat could sink if capsized.
- Always carry a bailing device, extra paddle, throw ring buoy and / or rope and a sound-producing device such as a whistle or air-horn.
- Practice capsizing recovery techniques with all party members prior to your trip.
- A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each person on board and should be worn while on the water. PFDs should fit properly and be in serviceable condition. Children 12 and under are required to wear their PFD at all times.

The boating season begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, and extends through the first Sunday in November. All park rivers are closed to boating except the Lewis River Channel between Lewis Lake and Shoshone Lake where non-motorized boats are permitted. Motor-driven watercrafts are permitted only on Lewis Lake, and most of Yellowstone Lake except in portions of the South, Southeast, and Flat Mountain arms.

Boats can be launched at Bridge Bay, Grant Village, and Lewis Lake boat ramps. Additionally, hand carried boats may be launched and removed at Sedge Bay. Towing water skiers and using jet skis are prohibited on park waters. There is currently a ban on watercrafts with sealed internal ballasts. Sailboat users should contact the Central Backcountry Office for more information.

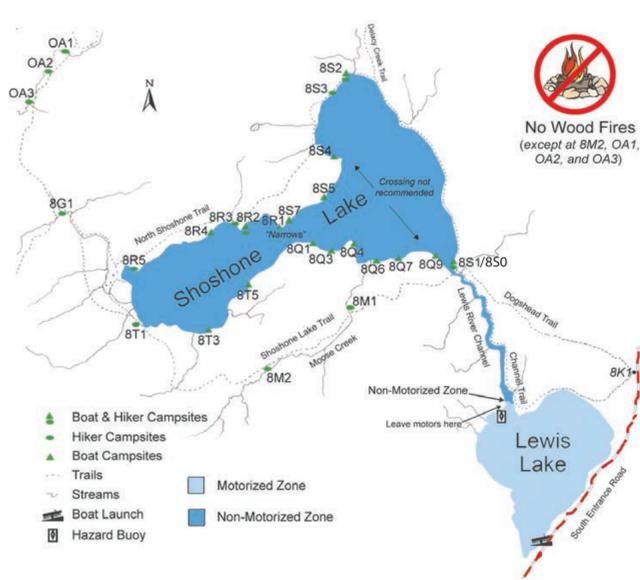
Boat permits and Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections are required for all boats and float tubes. Permits can be obtained at any of the following locations: South Entrance, Grant Village Visitor Center, and Bridge Bay Marina. In addition, float tube permits are available at a few other locations. Further information is available at: www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/boating.htm.

Shoshone Lake

Shoshone Lake is a magnificent wilderness resource. It has primitive campsites, no road access, and only non-motorized boats may reach its waters. One of the park's amazing geyser basins lies near the northwest shore. With the freedom to experience a thermal area without fences and boardwalks comes the responsibility to use great care to protect the fragile features and yourself. Foot travel in all thermal areas must be on maintained trails. Remember that it takes only seconds to destroy what took nature hundreds of years to make, and that there is no 911 or rapid rescue in the backcountry.

Considering the beautiful qualities of this backcountry lake, it is no wonder that the campsites along its shores are occupied almost every night of the summer. In order to protect the vegetation, soil, water, wildlife, and delicate thermal features, and provide for the enjoyment of all the lake's visitors, regulations are strictly enforced. Below are restrictions and recommendations specific to this area.

- Permits for boating parties must be picked up at the South Entrance, Grant Village, or Bridge Bay backcountry offices.
- Party size is limited to eight people per campsite. This helps alleviate disturbance to wildlife and other campers, reduce soil compaction, and cut down on the amount of human waste. Groups larger than eight must secure multiple sites and be prepared to cook and camp at their individual sites. They are encouraged to paddle together, but they may not congregate at a single site.
- Wood fires are not allowed. Past use of campfires and wood-gathering practices, combined with high levels of visitor use, caused significant and lasting impacts. Gas stoves, lanterns, and heaters are allowed. Charcoal fires are allowed in fire pans or grills elevated above mineral soil. All coals and ashes must be packed out.
- Maintaining an acceptable level of sanitation is a challenge in an area as heavily used as Shoshone Lake. Primitive pit or composting toilets are provided at all campsites around the lake. Please do not put food or garbage in these toilets.
- United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations apply to Yellowstone waters. USCG approved wearable personal flotation devices (PFD) are required for each person. Boats must be sound and have a suitable bailing device.
- High winds are an almost daily occurrence on the lake. Arrange your itineraries to avoid open-water crossings in the afternoon. Travel in early morning or late afternoon for easier and safer conditions. We suggest you select a site on the southern



shore of the lake for the first night of any trip. Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Limit wind and wave exposure by using protected bays. If a crossing is necessary, evaluate conditions wisely and cross only at "the Narrows" (see map). Place at least one experienced paddler in each boat and consider practicing capsizing recovery techniques with all party members prior to your trip.

- Lewis and Shoshone lakes usually lose their ice by the first week in June, and there is a high probability of early-season flooding at some sites. Shoshone Lake's Ice is off typically in the first week of June. To avoid making reservations that we most likely won't be able to honor, sites 8Q1, 8Q6, 8Q7, 8R2, 8S4, 8S5, 8T3, 8T5 and 8T1 have delayed opening dates, see the Backcountry Permit Reservation Application Instructions for specific dates. If conditions allow, these sites may be available for "walk-up" permits prior to the listed dates.
- Paddling upstream on the Lewis River channel is not possible for about the northernmost mile of the channel. Prepare to wade in cold water while dragging your boat through a rocky-bottomed stream. Water shoes are strongly recommended. In early to mid-June, during spring runoff, expect depths of up to 3–4 feet and extremely cold temperatures. In mid-July and August depth ranges are lower. Motors used to cross Lewis Lake are not allowed in the river channel or Shoshone Lake. They must be removed and left at the south end of the channel.



Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
All 8Q sites and the 8S1 boat site are available for only the first and last night of a trip.			
Wood fires are prohibited at all these sites except: 8M2, OA1, OA2, and OA3.			
8G1	6	8	Shoshone Meadows • Site located on Shoshone Lake Trail and isn't visible from the Bechler-Old Faithful Trail • 1 night limit • Stock=llamas only
8M1	8	15	Moose Creek
8M2	8	15	Moose Creek Meadow • 2 night limit
8Q1	8	0	S Narrow Point • Boat access only
8Q3	8	0	S Narrow Beach • Boat access only
8Q4	8	0	Moose Creek Point • Boat access only
8Q6	8	0	Moose Creek Outlet • Boat access only
8Q7	8	0	Moose Creek Beach • Boat access only
8Q9	8	0	Channel • Boat access only
8R1	8	0	Windy Point • Boat access only
8R2	8	0	Bluff Top • Trail or boat access
8R3	8	0	Cove • Trail access only
8R4	8	0	Flat Top • Boat access only
8R5	8	0	Basin Bay Point • Trail access only
8S0	8	0	Outlet (Hiker site) • 2 Party site
8S1	8	0	Outlet (Boat site) • 2 Party site
8S2	8	0	DeLacy Creek • Trail or boat access
8S3	8	0	Coyote • Trail access only
8S4	8	0	N Grizzly Beach • Boat access only
8S5	8	0	S Grizzly Beach • Boat access only
8S7	8	0	North Narrows • Boat access only
8T1	4	0	Basin Beach • Trail access only • Limit of 1 tent
8T3	8	0	Hillside • Boat access only
8T5	8	0	Tranquility • Boat access only
OA1	12	10	Lone Star
OA2	6	0	Upper Firehole
OA3	6	0	Firehole Springs

Yellowstone Lake

Yellowstone Lake is the second largest freshwater lake in the world that is above 7,000 feet. It encompasses 136 square miles, with 20-mile stretches of open water. Its 110 miles of shoreline provide access to some of the most beautiful wilderness in the park. There are only two backcountry trails near its shores, the Thorofare Trail along the east shore and the Trail Creek Trail which connects the Thorofare and Heart Lake Trails south of the South and Southeast arms.

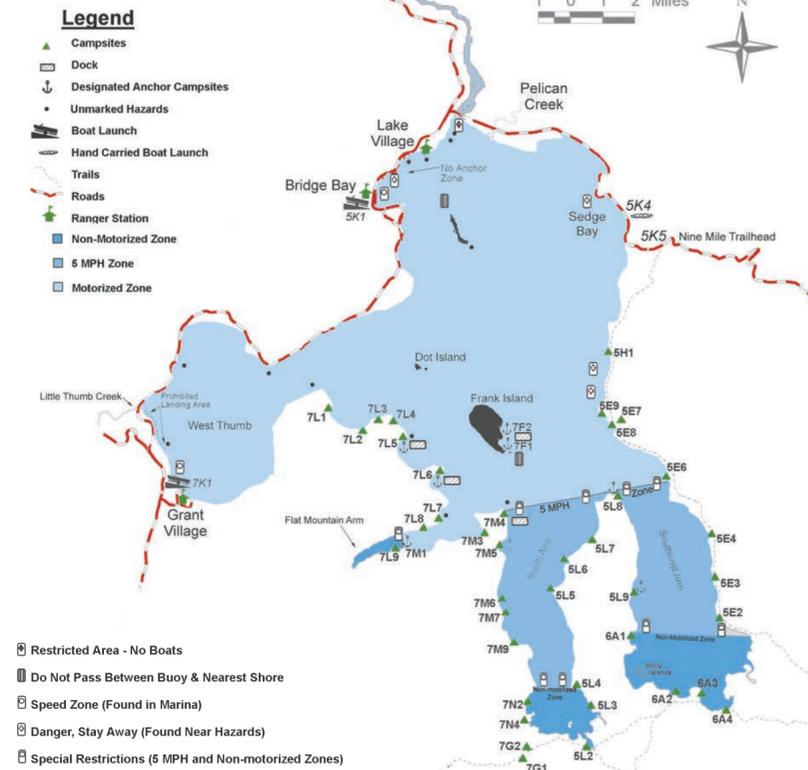
Power boats can be launched from ramps at Bridge Bay and Grant Village. Boaters must reduce their speed to a maximum of 5 miles per hour once they enter the South and Southeast arms. Additionally, the last 2 miles of the South, Southeast, and Flat Mountain arms are restricted to hand-propelled craft only.

Canoeing and kayaking on Yellowstone Lake is a memorable experience but not without its dangers. The water temperature during summer is typically 40–50° Fahrenheit. Almost daily, sudden winds can create waves as high as 4–5 feet that are choppy and very close together, making it especially hazardous for small boats. Most commonly the winds are

out of the southwest but at high altitudes and in thunder storms, the winds can shift at any time.

Boating season opens the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. The ice on Yellowstone Lake normally does not leave until late May or early June. In addition to site-specific restrictions, some sites may be closed in the early season when lake levels rise and may flood sites.

Bears are frequent visitors along the lake and its more than 100 tributaries. Three Bear Management Areas have closures and restrictions on travel that are in effect until July 15. See pages 2 and 3 for details.



Shoreline Mileages

From Sedge Bay to:	From Grant Village to:	
5H1 = 3.8	7L1 = 8	7M6 = 27
5E9 = 6	7L2 = 9	7M7 = 27.5
5E8 = 6.5	7L3 = 9.8	7M9 = 28.5
5E6 = 9	7L4 = 10.5	7N2 = 31.5
5E4 = 11.5	7L5 = 12	7N4 = 32.5
5E3 = 13.3	7L6 = 15	5L3 = 35.5
5E2 = 14.8	7L7 = 17	5L5 = 39.8
6A4 = 18.5	7L8 = 17.8	5L6 = 41
6A3 = 19.5	7L9 = 19	5L7 = 42.3
6A2 = 21	7M1 = 20	5L8 = 44.3
6A1 = 24	7M3 = 22	
5L9 = 26.5	7M4 = 24	
5L8 = 30	7M5 = 25	

Xanterra Parks and Resorts operates a shuttle service for boaters and hikers between the Bridge Bay Marina and locations on Yellowstone Lake. The drop-off and pick-up locations are at backcountry campsites 7L5, 7L6, 7M4, 5L8, and near 5E6. For more information and to make reservations contact the Bridge Bay Marina at (307) 242-3893.

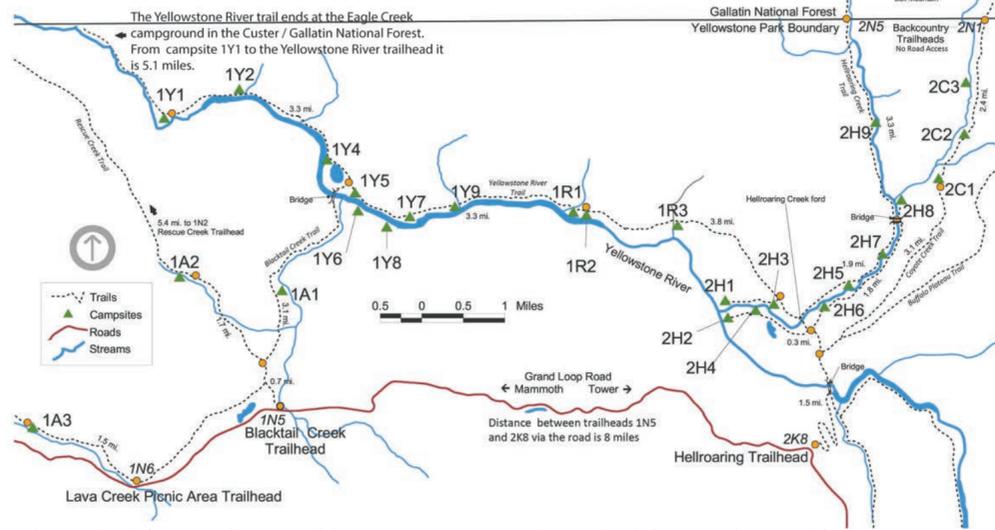
Site	Capacity	Campsite name/restrictions	Site	Capacity	Campsite name/restrictions
5E2	12	Terrace Point • No travel from campsite 4/1–7/14 • Boat access only • Boats must be entirely removed from water	7F1	8	Frank Island Bay South • Anchorage site only • Boat must be farther than 100 feet from shore, 300 feet from dock, and within land points defining double cove of the island • Boat must be self-contained* • No shore landings allowed prior to 8/15, except at dock and picnic area • No camping on shore
5E3	12	Brimstone Point • No travel from campsite 4/1–7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water	7F2	8	Frank Island Bay North • Same as 7F1
5E4	12	Brimstone Bay • No travel from campsite 4/1–7/14 • Same restrictions as 5E3	7L1	12	Breeze Bay North • Caution for shallow water • First and last night only
5E6	12	Columbine Meadow • No off-trail travel 4/1–7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water • One night limit • Allows 25 stock	7L2	12	Breeze Bay • First and last night only • Boat must be entirely removed from water
5E7	12	Meadow Creek • Closed 4/1–7/14 • Trail access only • Allows 25 stock	7L3	12	Breeze Bay South • Boat must be entirely removed from water
5E8	12	Park Point South • Closed 4/1–7/14 • Same restrictions as 5E3	7L4	12	Ravine
5E9	12	Park Point North • No off-trail travel 4/1–7/14 • Same restrictions as 5E3	7L5	8	Wolf Bay • 3 party dock site • Max. 8 people per party • No travel from site 5/15–7/14 • Only two parties may camp on shore • Dock parties must be self-sufficient* • Only 1 boat per party at dock, additional boats must be entirely removed from water, or anchored. • No more than one canoe/kayak party
5H1	6	Midshore • No travel from campsite 4/1–8/10 • Boat access only • First and last night only • Boats must be entirely removed from water • Limited tent space	7L6	8	Eagle Bay • 3 party dock site • Same restrictions as 7L5
5L2	8	Monument Camp • Trail or boat access • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Site is 1/4 mile from lake shore	7L7	12	Bodego Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Caution for shallow water in cove east of site
5L3	12	Chipmunk Creek Outlet • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water	7L8	12	Flat Mtn Arm N • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 •
5L4	8	South Arm Cove • Temporarily closed •	7L9	8	Flat Mtn Arm S • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Limited tent space
5L5	12	Promontory Point • Temporarily closed •	7M1	8	Grizzly Bay • 2 vessel site • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Self-contained* anchored boats only • No cooking or sleeping on shore
5L6	12	Promontory Shore • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Boat access only	7M3	12	Flat Mtn Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 • Good anchor site
5L7	12	Promontory Bay • Temporarily closed	7M4	8	Plover Point • 3 Party dock site • Same restrictions as 7L5
5L8	8	Promontory Tip • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored offshore • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 feet • Limited tenting area • Boat access only	7M5	12	Flower Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 • Rocky beach, boats must be removed from water or anchored off shore
5L9	12	Promontory Saddle • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored off shore • Boat access only • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 feet	7M6	12	South Arm Meadow • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water
6A1	12	Promontory SE • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor sailboat	7M7	12	South Arm • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water
6A2	10	SE Arm Inlet • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor sailboat	7M9	12	South Arm Bay • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water
6A3	12	Trail Point • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River	7N2	12	Godwy Camp • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Off-trail or non-motorized boat access only
6A4	12	Trail Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15–7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River	7N4	12	Southwest Bay • Closed 5/15–7/14 • Access may be difficult in periods of low water • Off-trail or non-motorized boat access only

* Definitions for dock and anchor sites: *Self-sufficient* is a boat with a galley and a berth; *Self-contained* is a boat with a galley, berth, toilet, and anchor.

Campsites (continued)

Yellowstone River/Hellroaring Creek Area

This trail is typically dry enough for hiking by mid-May. However, Hellroaring Creek remains too swift and deep to ford until August. When traveling to campsites 2H1, 2H3, 2H5, and 2H7 from trailhead 2K8, hikers must use the bridge north of campsite 2H7 to cross the creek. By mid-August, hikers are usually able to ford southeast of campsite 2H3. Fords can be dangerous, especially in high water, and not recommended. Also, during the spring and early summer, this area has a healthy population of ticks so hikers should take appropriate precautions. A report of current conditions is available at go.nps.gov/yell-backcountryreport. All the campsites along this trail system prohibit wood fires except 1A1–3, 2C1–3 and 2H9.



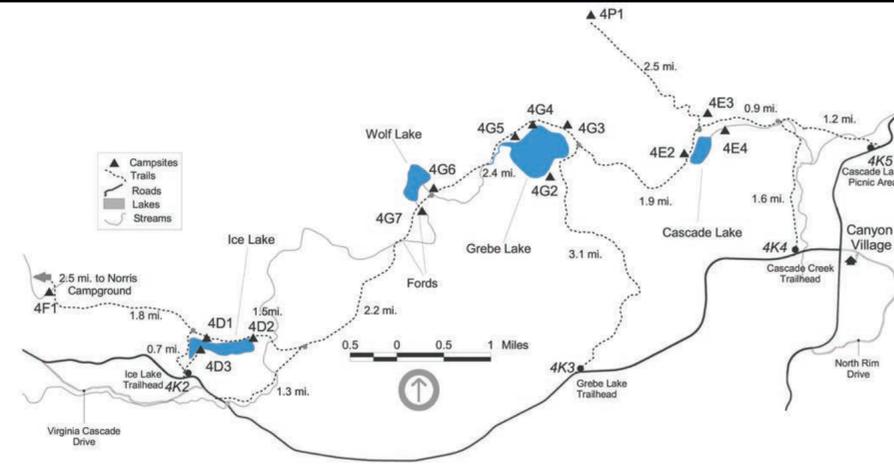
Trailheads:
 1N7–Yellowstone River USFS (not shown)
 1N2–Rescue Creek (not shown)
 1N3–Lava Creek (not shown)
 1N5–Blacktail Creek
 1N6–Lava Creek Picnic Area
 2K8–Hellroaring

North boundary trailheads in the national forest with no road access:
 2N1–Coyote Creek
 2N5–Upper Hellroaring

Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
1A1	10	6	Lower Blacktail Creek • EA
1A2	10	0	Rescue Creek • EA
1A3	6	0	Lava Creek • NWF • EA
1R1	12	6	W Cottonwood Creek • NWF • Stock limit 2 nights
1R2	6	0	E Cottonwood Creek • NWF
1R3	10	10	Little Cottonwood Creek • NWF • Stock limit 2 nights
1Y1	10	0	Yellowstone River Trail • NWF
1Y2	10	0	Yellowstone River Trail • NWF
1Y4	6	0	Crevice Lake • NWF
1Y5	6	0	Yellowstone River Bridge • NWF
1Y6	6	0	E of Blacktail Cabin • NWF
1Y7	10	6	Yellowstone River Trail • NWF • Stock limit 2 nights
1Y8	6	0	Oxbow Creek • NWF
1Y9	8	0	Yellowstone River Trail • NWF

Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
2C1	8	0	Lower Coyote Creek
2C2	8	0	Coyote Creek
2C3	10	16	Coyote Creek Meadow • Stock Only
2H1	8	0	N Yell/Hell Confluence • NWF
2H2	6	0	S Yell/Hell Confluence • NWF
2H3	10	0	Hellroaring Creek Ford • NWF
2H4	6	0	Lower Hellroaring Creek • NWF
2H5	8	0	Hellroaring Creek Bench • NWF
2H6	8	0	Hellroaring Creek • NWF
2H7	10	0	Hellroaring Mountain • NWF
2H8	8	0	Hellroaring - Coyote Creek Confluence • NWF
2H9	8	0	Upper Hellroaring Creek

NWF = No Wood Fires
 EA=Easy access sites within 2 miles of the trailhead



Canyon Area Lakes

Cascade, Grebe, Wolf, and Ice Lakes are popular destinations for day-hikers and overnight backpackers. These lakes sit atop the Solfatara Plateau at an average elevation of 8,000 feet. At this elevation, snow often remains in the area through mid-June and wet and muddy conditions with a healthy population of mosquitoes may persist into early July. The ford of the Little Gibbon River (east of site 4G7) is slow-moving, but can

be 3–4 feet high throughout June. The trail to Observation Peak is strenuous, climbing 1,400 feet in less than 3 miles. Campsite 4P1, atop Observation Peak, has no nearby source of water after the snow drifts disappear in mid-summer. Site 4D3, on the shore of Ice Lake, can be reserved only by campers with special needs. Only one-half mile from the trailhead, site 4D3 can be reached by wheelchair (with assistance) and has an accessible pit toilet.



Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
4D1	6	0	Ice Lake North • EA • NWF
4D2	8	0	Ice Lake East • EA
4D3	4	0	Ice Lake South • Reservable only by parties with special needs. Wheelchair accessible with assistance • EA
4E2	4	0	Cascade Lake West
4E3	8	0	Cascade Lake North
4E4	8	12	Cascade Creek • EA
4F1	8	0	Norris Meadows • EA
4G2	8	0	Grebe Lake Southeast
4G3	8	6	Grebe Lake East • NWF
4G4	8	6	Grebe Lake North
4G5	8	6	Grebe Lake Outlet
4G6	8	12	Wolf Lake
4G7	8	0	Wolf Lake Outlet
4P1	8	0	Observation Peak • NWF

EA=Easy access sites within 2 miles of the trailhead
 NWF=No Wood Fires

Horsepacking

Plan Ahead

Due to the limited number of campsites that allow stock we strongly suggest making an advance reservation if you're planning an overnight trip with stock. For riders not intending an overnight stay, free day ride permits are available online at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/playourvisit/horseride.htm> or by calling the Central Backcountry Office for information on trail conditions, restrictions, and regulations pertaining to stock use.

- Prior to July 1 most park trails are closed to stock use due to range readiness and wet conditions. Overnight trips with stock are not allowed before July 1. If you are planning an overnight trip or day ride contact the Central Backcountry Office for information on trail conditions, restrictions, and regulations pertaining to stock use.
- Stock users must possess proof of a negative Coggins test dated within the last 12 months for all equine stock entering the park. Be prepared to present a copy of the certification—signed by a licensed veterinarian—at an entrance station, when obtaining a backcountry permit, or in the backcountry.
- To prevent the spread of non-native weeds and grasses, hay is not permitted in the backcountry or at the trailhead. Stock trailers should be free of excess manure and all loose hay when entering the park. Only certified weed-free hay is allowed in your trailer and the frontcountry, but must be bagged when entering the park. Processed, weed-free feed (hay cubes, pellets, oats, etc.) is allowed in the backcountry, but must be securely stored, per food storage regulations, when not in use. Spilled or leftover feed must be cleaned up and packed out.
- The only pack stock permitted in Yellowstone are: horses, burros, mules, ponies, and llamas.
- Take only enough stock to accommodate your party and equipment.

At the Trailhead and on the Trail

The only overnight boarding of stock in the park is at backcountry campsites. Stock may not be kept at trailheads or any of the roadside campgrounds overnight. Plan to arrive at the trailhead, pack up, and depart the same day. Call the Central Backcountry Office for information on campgrounds that allow stock outside of the park.

- Manure from the trailhead, parking area, and hitch rails must be removed or scattered elsewhere before leaving the trailhead.
- Keep stock off roadways, except at designated trail crossings.

- When approaching other parties on the trail, exercise caution and have your animals under control. Give the right-of-way when possible. If backpackers seem unsure of what to do, politely offer guidance.
- Food or equipment caches are prohibited.
- Riders and pack strings should travel single file on the established tread; cutting across switchbacks is prohibited.
- All non-ridden stock must be led. Stock in excess of those needed for the trip are prohibited.

Managing Stock in Camp

Each backcountry campsite has a limit on the number of people and stock allowed per night. Consult the campsite list to find a site that will accommodate your stock and party size.

- Manure must be completely removed from the core camp, which is the area within a 100-foot radius of the fire ring or cooking area.
- Stock must be kept out of the core camp, except for short periods during packing and unpacking.
- Use care in watering stock to prevent stream bank damage. Avoid soft or marshy areas.
- Tying stock in a manner that damages trees or vegetation is prohibited. If stock must be tied for a brief interval, use only mature or dead trees.
- If you picket stock, use only dead and down wood for picket pins and drag logs. We recommend that you carry picket pins and hobbles as part of your equipment. Locate picket sites well away from camp and at least 100 feet from the nearest water or trail. Rotate picket sites frequently to avoid overgrazing. Highlines should be used only for short-term retention, not for holding stock overnight. If you use one, be sure to pad the anchor trees and situate it well away from the core camp in an area where there will be minimal impact.
- Campsites and their surroundings must be returned to a natural condition before you leave. Remove picket pins and drag logs from meadows. Repair any trampled areas with a rake or shovel. Scatter (kick) manure in stock retention areas.

Whatever retention method you use, it must be moved often enough to prevent damage to the resource. Even if you use an electric fence, you need to monitor and move it before resource damage occurs.

For more information or for assistance in planning your horsepacking trip, call the Central Backcountry Office or go online to www.nps.gov/yell/playourvisit/horseride.htm

Fishing Regulations

A current Yellowstone Fishing Permit is required. Anglers 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a three-day, seven-day, or a season permit. Anglers 12 to 15 years of age are required to obtain a non-fee permit. Permits are available at all backcountry offices, visitor centers, general stores in the park, and many vendors in our gateway communities. State fishing licenses are not required in the park and are not a substitute for a Yellowstone Fishing Permit.

Fishing Seasons

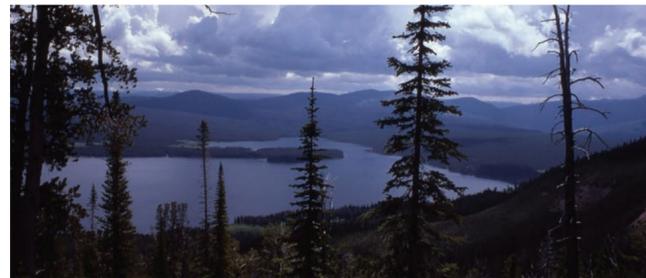
With some exceptions, Yellowstone's fishing season begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues through the first Sunday of November. More information is available at www.nps.gov/yell/playourvisit/fishing.htm.

Non-Toxic Fishing & AIS Protections

Yellowstone National Park has implemented a non-toxic fishing program. Fishing tackle such as leaded split-shot sinkers, weighted jigs (lead molded to a hook), and soft lead-weighted ribbon for nymph fishing are no longer allowed. In 2018, felt soled footwear were banned to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasives. Help us protect our fisheries by making sure to CLEAN • DRAIN • DRY all of your equipment.

Further Information

www.nps.gov/yell/playourvisit/fishing.htm



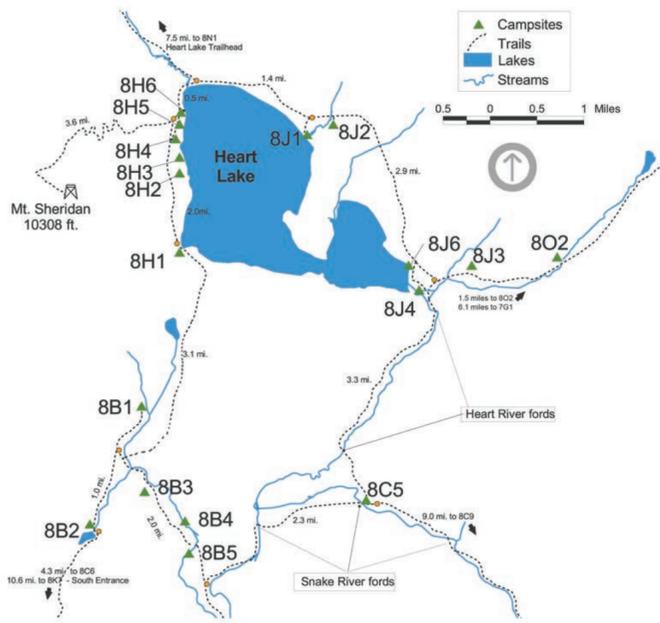
Heart Lake Area

Located at the base of Mt. Sheridan, Heart Lake is a popular destination with much competition for the campsites along its shores in July, August, and early September. Campsites on the west shore have a limit of two nights per trip. A day hike up Mt. Sheridan is an option for hikers who have the time and energy. The hike to the summit is strenuous as the trail climbs over 2,700 feet in 3 miles. Of the five sites at the base of Mt. Sheridan only 8H2 and 8H3 permit fires.

The Heart Lake area is prime bear habitat and part of a Bear Management Area that does not open before July 1. Depending on trail and bear management conditions, the opening of some campsites might be delayed. The Trail Creek Trail east of campsite 8O2 remains closed until July 15. Near the northwest shore of the lake are several thermal areas one of which is home to Rustic Geyser. Stay on maintained trails and use caution around all thermal areas where boiling water and unstable ground can cause serious injury or death. Remember there is no 911 in the backcountry. Soaking in thermal features that are entirely

of thermal origin is illegal, dangerous and can cause serious damage to the feature.

Along Heart and Snake rivers to the south and southeast of Heart Lake there are several significant river fords that are high, swift, and often impassable in the early season. In addition, there are two fords of the Snake River between the South Entrance and campsite 8B2. In a typical year, hikers should plan trips for after mid-July to minimize the chances of encountering dangerous ford conditions. During the summer you can view current conditions at go.nps.gov/yellbackcountryreport.



Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
All sites listed below are closed 4/1–6/30. (Heart Lake Bear Management Area - O)			
8B1	4	0	Basin Creek
8B2	12	6	Basin Creek Lake
8B3	12	25	Basin Creek • Stock Only • Unavailable if 8B4 occupied
8B4	12	25	Basin Creek • Stock Only • Unavailable if 8B3 occupied
8B5	8	0	Basin Creek
8C5	12	25	Snake River
8H1*	8	0	South Bay • NWF
8H2*	6	0	Sheridan Creek
8H3*	4	0	Hideaway

Site	Capacity	Stock	Campsite name/restrictions
8H4*	8	0	West Shore • NWF
8H5*	6	0	Sheridan Trail • NWF
8H6*	6	0	Rustic • NWF
8J1*	8	0	Beaver Creek
* All 8H sites and 8J1 have a limit of 2 nights per trip from 7/1 to 9/1			
8J2	12	25	Beaver Creek Meadow • Stock Only • 2 night limit
8J3	8	0	Surprise Creek
8J4	8	0	Heart River
8J6	4	0	E Shore
8O2	6	0	Outlet Creek • No travel east of Outlet Lk. before 7/15

NWF = No Wood Fires



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190



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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK Backcountry Trip Planner



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Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and restrictions for the area you visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Select terrain and mileage based on what your group can handle.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- As you look through the campsite list in this planner, please note the party size limit that pertains to each campsite. If your group size exceeds these limits, you will need to camp and

cook as smaller groups in separate campsites with separate permits.

- Repackage food to minimize waste.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- To prevent erosion, avoid shortcuts and switchbacks.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Camp in designated campsites.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 100 feet from lakes and streams.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent. Avoid leveling the tent site.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Never bury it or dump it in pit toilets. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 100 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 100 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

Respect Wildlife

- Do not approach wildlife. All wild animals are potentially dangerous. Observe wildlife from a distance. If your presence causes an animal to move away, you are too close.
- Never feed or harass animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.



- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Campfires are only permitted in specified campsites in designated fire rings.
- Keep fires small. Burn only small diameter dead and down wood. Do not break, cut or saw branches from any standing tree (dead or alive).
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely. Fires must be completely extinguished before you leave the site.

Leave What You Find

- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Federal law prohibits: collecting antlers; removing any plant, animal, or mineral substance; and disturbing or removing archeological or historical items. Leave natural objects as you find them.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature’s sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.