High Altitude  Most of the park is above 7,500 feet (2,275 m). Allow time to acclimate and drink plenty of liquids. Visitors with cardiac or respiratory medical histories should contact a physician prior to their visit.

Weather  Yellowstone’s weather is unpredictable. Be prepared for changing temperatures, storms, and emergencies. Carry adequate clothing and gear.

Traffic  Most roads are busy, narrow, and rough; some are steep with sharp drop-offs. Watch out for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, wildlife, and road damage. Pull into turnouts to let other cars pass. Always wear your seatbelt.

Where Are Your Children?

Your hand and voice may be too far away if your child leaves your side. Keep your children next to you and make sure they understand the hazards of Yellowstone—especially hydrothermal areas, wildlife, and steep drop-offs.

CAUTION: SCALDING WATER

Beautiful but deadly: Yellowstone’s hydrothermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. The crust surrounding them is thin and breaks easily, and often overlies more scalding water. People have died in these pools. Be safe, be careful—enjoy the hydrothermal areas from a distance.

- **You must stay on boardwalks and designated trails.** They exist to protect you and to preserve delicate formations.
- Pets are prohibited in hydrothermal areas.
- Swimming or bathing is prohibited in hydrothermal pools or streams where water flows entirely from a hydrothermal spring or pool.
- Where swimming is allowed, swim at your own risk. Hydrothermal waters can harbor organisms that cause a fatal meningitis infection and Legionnaires’ disease. Obtain more information at any ranger station or visitor center.
- Toxic gases exist at dangerous levels in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave the location immediately.

Bicycling  Wear safety gear, including helmet and high visibility clothing. Park roads are narrow and winding with few shoulders. In spring, high snowbanks make travel dangerous. Road elevations range from 5,300–8,860 feet (1,615–2,700 m); long distances exist between services and facilities.

Falling Trees  Avoid areas of dead trees (snags), which may suddenly fall—especially on windy days.

Stream Crossing  High water conditions persist well into summer. If your plans include fishing or crossing streams, check at local ranger stations for water conditions.

Theft  Lock your vehicle; keep valuables out of sight; label all valuable property with your name, address, or identification number. Report theft or vandalism to a ranger.

Watch Out! Wild Animals All Around You

Yellowstone is not a zoo and the animals are not tame, even though they may seem calm. **Do not approach any animals.** View them from the safety of your vehicle. **If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.** Each year park visitors are injured when they approach animals too closely. **You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, wolves, and coyotes.**

**BISON** are unpredictable and dangerous, and every year visitors are injured. Bison weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint 30 miles per hour (48 kph)—three times faster than you can run.

**BEARS** may be seen from March through November. Be alert for tracks and sign. Never approach animal carcasses. Report all bear sightings to a ranger.

**COYOTES** quickly learn habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans and can increase the risk of the coyote being poached or hit by a vehicle.

**RAVENS** have learned to unzip and unsnap packs. Do not allow them access to your food.

**Do not feed any animals. It’s harmful to them and it’s illegal.**
to walk the self-guiding trail around Fort Yellowstone, which chronicles the U.S. Army’s role in protecting the park. Other historic sites include the Norris Geyser Basin Museum, Obsidian Cliff, and the Old Faithful Inn and Historic District.

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**
This spectacular canyon, including the Upper and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, can be seen from the overlooks and trails of the Canyon Village area, and from the Tower Fall and Calcite Springs overlooks south of Tower Junction.

**Geysers & Hot Springs**
Geysers, hot springs, mudpots, and fumaroles are evidence of ongoing volcanic activity. To see them, visit Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris Geyser Basin, Fountain Paint Pot & Firehole Lake Drive, Midway Geyser Basin, the Old Faithful area, West Thumb Geyser Basin, and Mud Volcano.

**Lake Area**
Yellowstone Lake is North America’s largest high-altitude lake. The area is prime habitat for a variety of birds and mammals. You can also enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and viewing hydrothermal features.

**Wildlife**
You can see a variety and abundance of wildlife unparalleled in the lower 48 states. All the large mammals present when Yellowstone became a park are here today: grizzly and black bears, wolves, mountain lions, elk, bison, pronghorn, moose, and bighorn sheep. You’ll also see a large variety of birds, including bald eagles. Check at a visitor center for the best wildlife viewing locations.

**Wildflowers**
Magenta and blue—the colors used in this planner—hint at the vibrant wildflowers that brighten Yellowstone in summer.

**Open All Year**

- **Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth**
  Information, bookstore, exhibits on wildlife and history and films on the national park idea, Yellowstone, and artist Thomas Moran.

- **Open April–November & Winter**
  - **Old Faithful Visitor Center**
    Mid April–early November
    Information, bookstore, geyser eruption predictions, and a film about hydrothermal features.
    Also open late December through early March. Access only via over-snow vehicle.
  - **West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center**
    Late April–early November
    Information and publications.
    Also open mid December through early March.

**Open late May–late September**

- **Fishing Bridge Visitor Center**
  Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the park’s birds, wildlife, and lake geology.

- **Grant Visitor Center**
  Information, bookstore, exhibit and video on fire in Yellowstone.

- **Madison Information Station**
  Information and bookstore.

- **Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris**
  Exhibits at this historic soldier station on the history of the park ranger profession.

- **Norris Geyser Basin Museum**
  Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone.

- **West Thumb Information Station**
  Information and bookstore.

**New! Canyon Visitor Education Center**
Enter the new Canyon Visitor Education Center (shown below) and the world of Yellowstone’s supervolcano—an idea that has captured the minds and imaginations of people around the world. For the first time, you can see, hear, and learn how the Yellowstone volcano, its geysers and hot springs, and geologic history influence all life found here.

**Open May–early October**

- **Canyon Visitor Education Center**
  Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the park’s birds, wildlife, and lake geology.

- **Grant Visitor Center**
  Information, bookstore, exhibit and video on fire in Yellowstone.

- **Madison Information Station**
  Information and bookstore.

- **Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris**
  Exhibits at this historic soldier station on the history of the park ranger profession.

- **Norris Geyser Basin Museum**
  Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the hydrothermal features of Yellowstone.

- **West Thumb Information Station**
  Information and bookstore.

**VISITOR CENTERS & MUSEUMS**

- **Canyon Visitor Education Center**
  Information, bookstore, and exhibits on the park’s birds, wildlife, and lake geology.

- **Grant Visitor Center**
  Information, bookstore, exhibit and video on fire in Yellowstone.

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  Information and bookstore.
3 What To

Programs & Tours

Junior Rangers
Yellowstone’s Junior Ranger Program, for young people ages 5–12, promotes involvement and understanding of Yellowstone; ask at visitor centers for more information.

Yellowstone Association Institute
The park’s official educational partner offers affordable wildlife watching tours, backpacking trips, and short courses on the wonders of Yellowstone. Most programs are based at the Lamar Valley field campus or park hotels. Call 307-344-2294 or visit www.YellowstoneAssociation.org.

Other Activities

Interpretive Park Ranger Programs
Rangers lead activities and programs—from short walks to evening campfire programs—during the summer and winter seasons. They also rove through major park feature areas to answer your questions and help you understand the many wonders of Yellowstone.

On Your Own

Bicycling
is allowed on public roads, parking areas, and designated routes; it is prohibited on boardwalks and backcountry trails.

Boating
is allowed on most of Yellowstone Lake and on Lewis Lake. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most other lakes and one river: the Lewis River between Lewis and Shoshone Lakes. All boats and float tubes require permits.

Climbing
isn’t recommended due to loose, crumbly rock; it’s illegal in the Grand Canyon. Contact the backcountry office for information.

Fishing
is allowed in certain areas and with permits. See “Permits” for more information.

Drive the Park

The Grand Loop
Drive to major features on this narrow, winding road. Allow plenty of time for driving.

Summer
Park roads are generally open for travel, barring accidents, rock/mud slides, or road construction.

Autumn
Storms may cause temporary restrictions (chain or snow tire requirements) or closures of roads. Park roads close on the first Monday of November, except the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, which is open all year.

Winter
All roads and entrances, with one exception, are closed to motor vehicle travel; most are groomed for over-snow vehicles. The North Entrance road from Gardiner to Cooke City, MT, is open only to wheeled vehicles and may close at any time due to storms. Mud/Snow tires are recommended and often required. You must return to the North Entrance to leave the park.

Spring
Park roads open by sections beginning the third Friday in April. Storms may cause restrictions or closures.

Hiking
takes you far from roads and crowds. Check trail conditions at visitor centers or ranger stations.

Picnic areas
exist throughout the park. They usually have pit toilets, but no drinking water. Fires are legal in areas with fire grates; inquire when you arrive.

Self-guiding trails

Stock use
depends on trail conditions. Contact the backcountry office for information. Hay restrictions enforced; see “Regulations.”

Swimming, bathing,
and wading
are discouraged due to extremely cold water. They are illegal in hydrothermal features or streams flowing from hydrothermal features.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


For current schedules of activities, consult the park website (www.nps.gov/yell) or the park newspaper when you arrive.
4 Map

Road Openings & Closings 2007

Spring Road Openings, weather permitting:
April 20—Mammoth to Old Faithful; Madison Junction to West Entrance; Norris Junction to Canyon
May 4—Canyon to Lake to East Entrance
May 11—Old Faithful to South Entrance, Lake to West Thumb, & Tower Junction to Tower Fall
May 25—Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass), Beartooth Highway

Fall Road Closures
October 9—Beartooth Highway, Tower Fall to Canyon Junction (Dunraven Pass)
November 5—All park roads close for the season at 8 AM except the North Entrance to Cooke City road, which is open all year.

ROAD WORK occurs every year. Locations and schedules on this map are tentative and can change. For updates, check at a visitor center upon arrival.
5 Services

Medical Services In summer, outpatient medical services are offered at Lake, Mammoth, and Old Faithful. Ambulances, 24-hour emergency service, laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology services are available. Mammoth Clinic is open year-round. The park is on 911 service.

Worship Services Worship services take place in the park and in communities adjacent to the park, and include most major denominations and interdenominational services during the summer. Check at visitor centers for information.

Accessibility Visitors Guide to Accessible Features in Yellowstone National Park, available free at entrance stations and visitor centers in the park, describes facilities judged to be negotiable for wheelchair users. Additional facilities are being made accessible as quickly as possible within funding limitations. For more information, write to:

Park Accessibility Coordinator
P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
TDD only: 307-344-2017

Sign Language Interpreters
Sign language interpreters for Yellowstone National Park interpretive programs need to be arranged three weeks in advance. Call 307-344-2251.

Nearby Parks, Forests, & Chambers of Commerce

National Parks
Grand Teton NP 307-739-3300
Glacier NP 406-888-7800

National Forests
Shoshone 307-527-6241
Gallatin 406-587-6701
Bridger–Teton 307-739-5500
Caribou–Targhee 208-624-3151
Custer 406-657-6200

Montana Chambers of Commerce
Big Sky 406-995-3000
Billings 406-245-4111
Bozeman 406-586-5421
Gardiner 406-848-7971
Livingston 406-222-0850
West Yellowstone 406-646-7701
Cooke City–Silver Gate 406-838-2495
Red Lodge 406-446-1718

Wyoming Chambers of Commerce
Cody 307-587-2297
Jackson 307-733-3316
Dubois 307-455-2556
E. Yellowstone/Wapiti Valley 307-587-9595

Idaho Chambers of Commerce
Idaho Falls 208-523-1010
Eastern Idaho Visitor Info 800-634-3246

Useful Phone Numbers & Websites
The new America the Beautiful Pass

Purchase this pass for one annual fee (cost unknown at press time) to receive discounted entrance fees to all national park areas and other federal areas.

Seniors (62 and older) who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents may purchase the new Senior Pass for $10. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled may obtain a free Access Pass.

Purchase your pass at one of Yellowstone’s entrance stations or http://store.usgs.gov/pass. (The pass is not good for Expanded Amenity Fees such as camping.)
Spring
Camping is limited to 14 days July 1–Labor Day (first Monday in September) and to 30 days the rest of the year; no limit at Fishing Bridge.

Group Camping
Available at Madison, Grant, and Bridge Bay campgrounds for large organized groups with a designated leader such as youth groups or educational groups. $52–$84 per night, depending on group size. Reservations are required. Contact Xanterra Parks and Resorts: P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; 307-344-7311 or toll-free 866-439-7375.

Attention RV Drivers
Few campsites exist in the park to accommodate RVs longer than 30 feet. Reservations recommended for these large sites at Fishing Bridge RV Park, and in campgrounds outside the park (map on center pages).

Weather
Spring
Cold and snow linger into June, although temperatures gradually climb. Early in spring, daytime temperatures average in the 40s and 50s; by late May and June, they may reach the 60s and 70s. Nighttime lows fall below freezing.

Summer
Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s, occasionally the 80s in the lower elevations. Nights are cool—temperatures may drop into the 40s and 30s, sometimes even the 20s. June can be cool and rainy; July and August tend to be somewhat drier, although afternoon thunder showers are common.

Autumn
Weather can be pleasant, although temperatures average 10–20 degrees lower than summer. Nighttime lows can fall into the teens and lower. Snow increases in frequency and intensity as the weeks go by.

Winter
Daytime temperatures range from near zero to above freezing; night temperatures may fall well below zero. Annual snowfall averages nearly 150 inches in most of the park. At higher elevations, 200–400 inches of snow have been recorded.

Winter in Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone is open in the winter. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteract.htm or call 307-344-2116 and ask for Yell 165, “Visit the Park in Winter.” It’s free.