

# YELLOWSTONE Today



Winter 2010–2011

Official Newspaper of Yellowstone National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



A red fox listens for rodents moving beneath the snow.

Above: NPS/Peaco; Below: Yellowstone Park Foundation/Lubke

## Enjoy Yellowstone's Winter Wonderland

Snow and cold combine with natural wonders to create an incomparable winter experience in Yellowstone. Enjoy your winter visit safely.

- ◆ Use extra care near waterfalls, on trails, in hydrothermal areas, and around wildlife.
- ◆ Watch your children. Your hand and voice may be too far away once your child leaves your side.
- ◆ Travel by automobile year-round on the road from the North Entrance to Cooke City, a few miles outside the Northeast Entrance. Mud/Snow tires or chains are recommended and may be required.
- ◆ Before beginning your trip—whether by car, skis, or snowshoes—obtain current road and weather reports.
- ◆ Dress for winter: wear wool or synthetics, and layer clothing. More gear tips on p. 5.
- ◆ Plan outings to match your group's abilities so everyone can enjoy themselves and stay safe. For more safety tips, see p. 4.
- ◆ Stay 100 yards from bears and wolves, 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes. Never feed them or other animals, including birds. More safety tips and regulations on p. 2.



**Now Open!**

## The Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

**Find out more about this exciting center on page 6**

## In This Issue

Safety & Rules . . . . .	Front Page, 2	Ranger-led Programs . . . . .	7
Visiting In Winter . . . . .	3	Other Activities . . . . .	9
Winter Safety Tips . . . . .	4	Park Challenges . . . . .	11
Skiing and Snowshoeing . . . . .	5	Services . . . . .	8, Back Page
Exploring Yellowstone . . . . .	6	Map . . . . .	Back Page



Photograph courtesy Carolyn Duckworth

### SPEED KILLS

more than **100** deer, moose, bears, elk, bison, wolves each year

**SLOW DOWN**  
and save a life

## Help Protect Wildlife Near Roads

- ◆ Always expect animals to be on or near the road.
- ◆ Follow the speed limit (maximum 45 mph unless otherwise posted).
- ◆ Increase caution at night and during wet or wintry conditions.

# While You Are Here

2

Winter 2010–2011

## Stay Safe

### IN HYDROTHERMAL AREAS

**Beautiful but deadly:** Yellowstone's hydrothermal features can kill you. Their waters are frequently near or above boiling. Their crust is thin, breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water.

- ◆ Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. They protect you and delicate formations.
- ◆ Keep your children close to you at all times; make sure they understand the danger.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Avoid burns & infections: don't expose your head to thermal water by immersion, splashing, touching your face, or inhaling steam. Thermal water can harbor organisms that cause fatal meningitis or Legionnaires' disease.
- ◆ Dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide have been measured in some hydrothermal areas. If you feel sick, leave the location immediately.

### AROUND WILDLIFE

Wild animals are dangerous. To protect yourself and wildlife, follow these guidelines at all times:

- ◆ You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) away from bears and wolves and at least 25 yards (23 m) away from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and coyotes.
- ◆ Park in established turnouts and make sure your car is completely off the paved roadway. Put your vehicle into park, and engage your parking brake.
- ◆ If you exit your vehicle, stay near it so you can get inside if the animal approaches.
- ◆ Avoid being struck by a moving vehicle—do not stand in the road to view or photograph wildlife.
- ◆ Never surround, crowd, approach, or follow wildlife.
- ◆ Don't block an animal's movement or line of travel.
- ◆ Do not run or make sudden movements—this may cause predators to attack.
- ◆ If other people in the area are putting you in danger, leave the scene and notify a park ranger.
- ◆ Do not ever feed wildlife, including birds.

**BISON** are unpredictable and dangerous; they weigh up to 2,000 pounds (900 kg) and sprint 30 miles per hour (48 km/h). Visitors are injured every year.

**GRIZZLY BEARS** sometimes leave their dens. Be alert for tracks, do not approach carcasses. Report signs of bear or encounters with bears to a park ranger as soon as possible. Someone's safety may depend on it.

### MORE SAFETY TIPS

**Falling Trees** Dead trees may suddenly fall, especially on windy days.

**High Altitude** Most of the park is above 7,500 feet. Allow time to acclimate; be aware of your physical limitations; don't overexert. Drink plenty of water to forestall dehydration from altitude and dry climate. Stop and rest often.

**Hypothermia & Frostbite** Hypothermia is a rapid loss of body heat that can cause death if not treated. Early warning signs include shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Know these warning signs and how to treat them. Seek help as soon as you can. Frostbite can permanently damage tissue and affect use of fingers, toes, nose, ears, or other extremities. Protect yourself with warm, layered clothing, and frequent stops to warm up.

**Theft** Lock your vehicle; keep valuables hidden; label valuable property with your name, address, or identification number; report theft or vandalism to a ranger.

**Traffic** Most park roads are narrow, rough, and busy; drive cautiously and courteously; you must use pullouts to observe wildlife or scenery and to allow other vehicles to pass. Watch for animals on the road, especially at night.

**Weather** Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable. Obtain current weather conditions and forecasts at visitor centers or ranger stations. Be prepared for severe winter cold. Plan your trip and follow your plan.

**All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio** If you have a weather radio receiver, tune to 162.425MHz (Mammoth area) or 162.450 MHz (Lake area) to receive hazardous weather alerts, or go to [www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/nwr/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/nwr/).

## Stay Legal

### Know These Numbers

25

= the number of YARDS you must stay away from all wildlife—except . . .

100

= the number of YARDS you must stay away from a bear or a wolf

45

= the maximum speed limit in the park unless otherwise posted

911

= the number to call in an emergency

### FIREARMS

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws to legally possess firearms in Yellowstone National Park. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with those laws. Federal law still prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park (such as visitor centers, government offices, etc.); those places are marked with signs at all public entrances.

**Weapons** (air guns, bow & arrow, crossbows, blowguns, spears, slingshots, etc.) are still prohibited.

More information at [www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm).

### THESE ACTIONS ARE ILLEGAL

- ◆ Speeding (radar enforced)—except for a portion of U.S. 191, all roads within the park are posted at 45 mph **or lower**.
- ◆ Driving while intoxicated (open container law enforced).
- ◆ Removing or possessing natural (antlers, etc.) or cultural (arrowheads, etc.) features.
- ◆ Traveling off-road by vehicle or bicycle. (Bicycling rules and riding locations are listed in a free brochure at visitor centers.)
- ◆ Driving or riding in a vehicle without your seatbelt fastened. Each vehicle occupant must have a safety belt or child restraint system fastened when the vehicle is in motion.
- ◆ Improperly storing food—at any time, under any circumstances.
- ◆ Feeding any animals—any animals, under any circumstances.
- ◆ Camping outside of designated camping areas or in the backcountry without a permit.
- ◆ Having pets off leash or on trails and boardwalks. Pets are prohibited on all trails, in the backcountry, and in hydrothermal basins. Where allowed, pets must be leashed and must remain within 100 feet (30 m) of a road or parking area. Do not leave a pet unattended or tied to an object. Boarding facilities available in communities outside the park.
- ◆ Littering.
- ◆ Throwing coins, rocks, or other objects into hydrothermal features.
- ◆ Traveling off boardwalks or designated trails in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Spotlighting (viewing with artificial light) elk, deer, or other animals.
- ◆ Calling to attract wildlife—bugling to elk, howling to wolves, calling to attract birds, etc.
- ◆ Using electronic equipment capable of tracking wildlife.
- ◆ Willfully remaining near or approaching wildlife, including birds, within ANY distance that disturbs or displaces the animal.
- ◆ Leaving detachable side mirrors attached when not pulling trailers.
- ◆ Transporting water, fish, and any other aquatic plants or animals into the park's waters.

### Watch for ICE on Roads & Trails

Only two park roads are plowed:

From the North Entrance to Cooke City, Montana

From Mammoth Hot Springs to the Upper Terraces parking

- ◆ They are maintained only during daylight hours and may close during severe storms.
- ◆ Expect snowpack, ice, frost heaves, drifts.
- ◆ Mud/Snow tires or tire chains are recommended and may be required.
- ◆ Speed limit for all vehicles is 45 mph (73 kph) **or lower** where posted—such as from North Entrance to Mammoth.
- ◆ Do not stop on the road or block traffic when viewing wildlife or scenery. Use pullouts.
- ◆ Trails and overlooks may be snow-covered, icy, and dangerous.
- ◆ Obey all trail closures. Walk cautiously and watch your children.

Law enforcement rangers strictly enforce all park regulations to protect you and the park.

# Visiting in Winter

Winter 2010–2011

3

## Enjoying Winter

**In a car** You can drive from the North Entrance to Cooke City, MT, year-round. You will see spectacular scenery and probably pronghorn, elk, bison, and possibly wolves.

**On skis or snowshoes** Choose from many trails in the northern parts of the park and near the West Entrance. Information is available at visitor centers and at [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteract.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteract.htm). See also pages 4 & 5 for tips, and pages 7, 9, & 11 for guided trips.

**Staying in Yellowstone** Xanterra Parks & Resorts provides winter lodging in the park. Visit [YellowstoneParkLodges.com](http://YellowstoneParkLodges.com); call 307-344-7311 or toll-free 866-Geysersland (866-439-7375).

## ? Questions? *Ask a ranger at these locations!*

### Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth

Information, bookstore, and exhibits on wildlife and history. Films on the park and the national park idea. Call 307-344-2263.

Open daily, year-round: 9 AM–5 PM

### New! Old Faithful Visitor Education Center

Information, exhibits, films, bookstore, and geyser eruption predictions. Call 307-344-2750.

Open daily, Dec. 15–March 15: 9 AM–5 PM

*Old Faithful eruption predictions: 307-344-2751, during visitor center hours.*

### Canyon Visitor Center

Lobby open approximately 9 AM–3 PM for information and warming hut services. Restrooms open 24 hours a day. Remainder of building closed during winter. Call 307-344-2550.

Open daily, Dec. 15–March 13.

### West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce staff available year-round, Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM. Call 406-646-7701.

NPS rangers available daily, Dec. 15–March 15: 8 AM–4 PM. Call 307-344-2876



Old Faithful Geyser

NPS/Balthis

## Warming Huts

Warming huts provide shelter for skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers. They are open 24 hours a day, except Mammoth, Old Faithful,

and Canyon (which is in the visitor center building). Opening & closing dates and other details are listed on the back page.

## Self-guiding Trails: *Explore at your own pace*

**Mammoth Hot Springs** Walk through ever-changing travertine terraces and enjoy a scenic drive through the Upper Terraces.

**Fort Yellowstone** Enjoy a walking tour of this historic site at Mammoth Hot Springs, from the time of U.S. Army management (1886–1918).

### Forces of the Northern Range

Eight miles east of Mammoth Hot Springs, walk among evidence of volcanoes, glaciers, and fire; and learn about the area's plants and animals.

**Old Faithful Area** The world's largest concentration of active geysers is here. View Old Faithful then walk trails past hundreds of geysers and hot springs.

### New! Old Faithful Historic District

Enjoy a walking tour of this historic district, which includes Old Faithful Geyser, the Inn and other distinctive buildings.



## Winter Junior Rangers!

Hike, ski, or snowshoe a trail, attend a ranger-led program, and complete fun activities. Find out more and purchase your copy of the 8–page

Junior Ranger activity paper for \$3 at the visitor centers listed on this page.

## Stay Connected With Yellowstone Online



At home or on the road, you can explore Yellowstone online. Yellowstone National Park has been posting programs for more than a decade that bring the park to you—wherever you are. Stay connected and find new features at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell), such as . . .

### Old Faithful Virtual Visitor Center

The OFVVC is for explorers of all ages, from young children to their great grandparents.

Begin your online visit with a flyover of Yellowstone National Park that lands you beside Old Faithful Geyser. Click a button to zoom into the lobby, where dozens of explorations await you. Watch animations of a geyser eruption, volcano eruption, travertine terrace growth, and microbial mats color changes. You'll find maps, too, along with links to other online resources.

### Videos & Podcasts

Plan your visit, customize your guide to the park, or learn more about Yellowstone's attractions and treasures through videos at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell) or podcasts free from iTunes. Popular features include:

**Visiting Yellowstone** A series of orientation videos that include traveling with pets, hiking and backpacking, traveling with kids, walks and day hikes, water-related rules and safety, and bicycling in Yellowstone.

**Exploring Yellowstone** Park Ranger Orville Bach takes you on a tour of the Upper Geyser Basin, home to Old Faithful Geyser.

**Watch Land to Life** Yellowstone's new film on how extreme geologic forces create a unique landscape that supports an abundance of life.

**Inside Yellowstone** Nearly 100 videos of very short ranger talks on park features and processes.

**Yellowstone InDepth** Major park questions and issues are discussed by park rangers, scientists, historians, and park visitors.

Funding provided by the Yellowstone Association and by Canon U.S.A. through a grant to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

### Electronic Field Trips

Especially for middle school students & teachers: Take one of 17 free electronic field trips, available at [www.WindowsIntoWonderland.org](http://www.WindowsIntoWonderland.org). Funding provided by donations through the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

### Webcams

Stay connected to Yellowstone's dynamic landscape through webcams located at Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, and the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout: [www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm). The Old Faithful live-streaming webcam was donated, along with supporting funds, by Canon U.S.A. through a grant to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

# Be Safe & Smart

4

Winter 2010–2011



A coyote's thick coat provides insulation against the snow.

NPS/Weis

## Safe & Smart Snowmobiling

### Dress for Extreme Cold

Essential items: helmet, face mask, heavily insulated gloves or mittens, felt-lined boots, and a heavily insulated snowmobile suit. Avoid tight-fitting garments; they restrict circulation and increase the possibility of frostbite.

### Wild Animals Have the Right of Way!

Your guide will know what to do if you encounter wild animals on the road. Recommendations include:

- ◆ If bison or other wildlife are on the road, stop at least 25 yards away (100 yards for wolves or bears) and/or pull your machine as far as possible to the opposite side of the road; give them a chance to move off the road.
- ◆ Do not make sudden or erratic movements; use groomed pullouts where possible.
- ◆ Do not chase animals or cause them to run.
- ◆ If an animal appears agitated, do not attempt to pass—it may charge.
- ◆ If animals run toward you and you can confidently turn around, do so, moving to a safe place while your guide reassesses the situation.
- ◆ If animals walk or run toward you and you cannot turn around, get off your machine and stand to the side of it, keeping the machine between you and the animals.
- ◆ If animals are standing calmly, your guide may inch toward them and assess their behavior. If they remain calm, you may be able to pass on the opposite side of the road at a slow speed.

### Regulations

Your guide knows the regulations; you should be aware of them too:

- ◆ All snowmobilers must be led by a commercial guide authorized by the National Park Service (NPS) to operate in Yellowstone National Park.
- ◆ All snowmobiles must meet NPS sound and emission requirements.
- ◆ Snowmobile operators must have a valid state motor vehicle driver's license in possession.
- ◆ Roads are open only 7 AM to 9 PM. Snowmobiles are not allowed to operate in the park between 9 PM and 7 AM.
- ◆ Maximum speed limit is 45 mph or less where posted or as conditions warrant.
- ◆ Speed limit is 35 mph West Entrance to Madison, Madison to Old Faithful.
- ◆ Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- ◆ Allow enough distance between snowmobiles when traveling.
- ◆ Pass only when safe.
- ◆ If you turn around, stay within the road width.
- ◆ Drive on the right side of the road even if the road is rough.
- ◆ Drive in single file.
- ◆ Do not idle your machine more than 5 minutes.
- ◆ When stopping, pull to the far right and park in single file.
- ◆ Stay on designated roads. Sidehilling, bermriding, or any off-road travel is prohibited and carries a fine of up to \$5,000.
- ◆ Report accidents to a ranger.
- ◆ Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is illegal. Possession of open alcoholic beverage containers, including bota bags, is illegal.

## Weather

Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable and changes suddenly.

Obtain current weather conditions and forecasts at visitor centers or ranger stations. Be prepared for a range of conditions, whether you are out for several hours or overnight. Plan your trip and follow your plan.

## Avalanches

- ◆ Avalanche hazard can be high on roads between the East Entrance and Fishing Bridge Junction, on Dunraven Pass, on trails in the Cooke City vicinity, and in many areas of the backcountry. Learn about avalanche mechanics, safe travel methods, and rescue procedures before going into the backcountry.
- ◆ Avalanches most commonly occur on hillsides or in canyons with slopes of 30–45°, but can happen on any slope.
- ◆ When traveling through such areas, cross the slope one at a time while others watch.
- ◆ Avalanches are more likely to occur during or after heavy fresh snowfall, high winds, or extreme temperature changes.
- ◆ Check the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, 406-587-6981 or [www.mtavalanche.com](http://www.mtavalanche.com), for avalanche advisories for Bozeman, Livingston, West Yellowstone, Cooke City, and Gardiner; or check with a local ranger for a current forecast.

## Safe & Smart Skiing & Snowshoeing

- ◆ Most of the park is above 7,500 feet. If you are coming from lower elevations, acclimate yourself and test your capabilities by taking short day trips before considering longer excursions.
- ◆ Evaluate your party's capabilities. Plan your outing so that everyone will enjoy it.
- ◆ Know your equipment's capabilities and weaknesses and be prepared to make repairs.
- ◆ Let someone know where you are going.
- ◆ Never go close to geysers, hot springs, or mudpots. You may fall through overhanging snow ledges or thin crust. Do not leave designated trails in hydrothermal areas.
- ◆ Beware of icy conditions on downhill grades leading into hydrothermal areas. Side-step or walk down the hill rather than risk skiing out of control into a boiling pool.
- ◆ When crossing frozen lakes, use extreme caution and check ice thickness by prodding with a ski pole. Ice, snow-covered or not, may be thin, especially near inlets, outlets, and waters warmed by hydrothermal activity. Crossing rivers may be dangerous; some have bridges and some do not. Ask a ranger about local crossings.
- ◆ Do not approach wildlife. Wild animals are unpredictable; if they charge, you can't outrun them, especially in deep snow. If they run, you are forcing them to use energy they need to survive.
- ◆ When passing through areas of dead trees (snags), stay on established trails and be alert. Snags can fall with little warning.
- ◆ Exertion in dry mountain air can dehydrate you. Drink two quarts of water a day. Carry gear to melt water from snow or dip it out of a stream from a safe distance with a ski pole. Boil water from lakes or streams to reduce the chance of infection from water-borne diseases.
- ◆ Learn as much as you can about winter survival. Talk with park rangers before you leave on any trip. Many good books are also available on this topic.
- ◆ Follow basic ski etiquette: skiers going uphill yield to those going downhill; never walk or snowshoe in ski tracks.
- ◆ Orange trail markers attached to trees may be difficult to find in winter. Even on a well-marked trail, you can become lost easily in a whiteout or blizzard.
- ◆ If you venture into the backcountry, carry a USGS topographic map and a compass—and know how to use them.
- ◆ Attempt off-trail travel only if you are completely familiar with the specific area where you will be skiing.
- ◆ Obtain specific information on conditions at the area's ranger station, backcountry office, warming hut, or visitor center.



You must stay at least 100 yards from bears & wolves and at least 25 yards from all other animals.



# Skiing & Snowshoeing

Winter 2010–2011

5

*Yellowstone has miles of trails for the adventurous skier and snowshoer. Whether you are skiing a groomed trail in a developed area or venturing into the backcountry, remember that you are traveling in wilderness with all its potential dangers: unpredictable wildlife, changing weather conditions, hydrothermal areas, deep snow, open streams, and avalanches. You have chosen to explore and experience the land on its terms, and your safety is not guaranteed. Be prepared for any situation. Carefully read the safety information on the previous page, understand all backcountry guidelines and regulations, and know the limits of your ability.*

## Skiing and Snowshoeing Trails

You have a choice of ski trails throughout the park—a few are described here. Maps and trail brochures are available for trails in the Mammoth, Tower, Northeast, and West Yellowstone/Gallatin areas. These trails range from easy to difficult; **please take a map!**

### Northern Region

*See map below.*

Skiing opportunities abound along the plowed road between Mammoth and the Northeast Entrance.

#### Upper Terrace

In winter, Upper Terrace Drive becomes a groomed 1.5-mile ski trail. You'll have views of the steaming lower terraces and historic Fort Yellowstone. This is a hydrothermal area; please stay on the trail.

#### Bunsen Peak

This 6-mile trail follows the old Bunsen Peak road; in places it is steep and has sharp turns. Along the trail, you will have views of the Gallatin Mountains and the Gardner River Canyon. For trail conditions, suggested starting points, and shuttles, ask at the Bear Den Ski Shop next to the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

#### Blacktail

This trail begins 8 miles east of Mammoth and follows an unplowed 8-mile road. Enjoy vistas of meadows surrounded by mountain peaks, and look for elk, deer, coyotes, and bison scattered throughout their winter range.

#### Tower Fall

This trail begins at Tower Junction and follows the unplowed Tower–Canyon road for 2.5 miles past the Calcite Springs Overlook to Tower Fall. You'll have views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and you might see bison, bighorn sheep, or bald eagles. Continue on the 5.5-mile Chittenden Loop Trail or return to Tower Junction.

#### Barronette

This 3.5-mile trail follows Soda Butte Creek along an old roadway that parallels the Northeast Entrance Road at the base of Barronette Peak. It

travels through a forest and offers spectacular scenery and consistent snow conditions.

### Old Faithful

#### Lone Star Geyser

This moderate 9-mile trail begins at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and takes you to Kepler Cascades. From there, you follow a groomed service road alongside the Firehole River to Lone Star Geyser. The geyser erupts about every three hours from a 12-foot high cone. Beginning skiers should return the same way; more advanced skiers might like to return via the Howard Eaton Trail, which is steep and requires caution.

#### Fairy Falls

Catch a snowcoach shuttle at Old Faithful Snow Lodge to the southern end of the Fairy Falls trailhead at the steel bridge. From here you can ski to one of the most spectacular ice-encrusted falls in the park. You will be skiing on a snowcoach route then through areas of burned forest so be alert for falling trees. You can ski back to Old Faithful by following the trail next to the snow vehicle road until you reach the Biscuit Basin Trail, which takes you through the Upper Geyser Basin past Morning Glory Pool and Geyser Hill. The entire trip is about 11 easy miles.

### West Yellowstone

#### Riverside

This trail begins on Boundary Street and heads one mile through forest to the up-river and down-river loops. Both loops provide scenic views of the Gallatin Range and Madison River. Total distance varies from 2 to 7 miles, depending on your route.



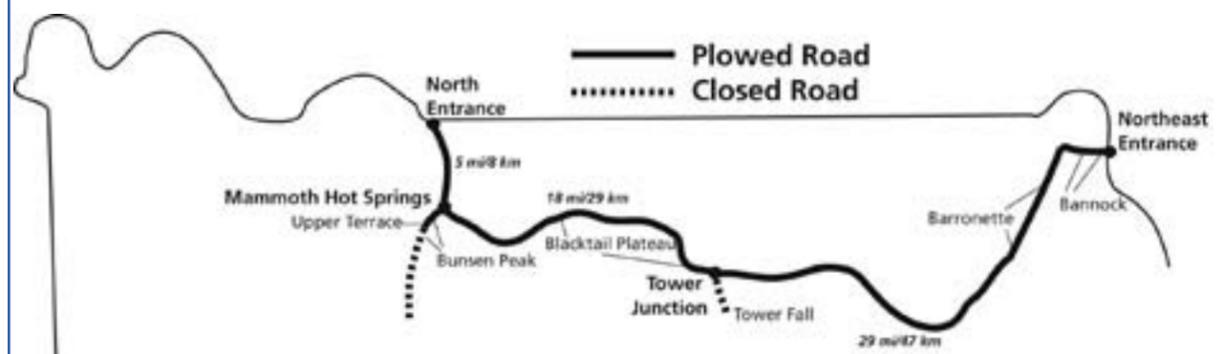
NPS

## Winter Gear Guide

- ◆ Before you rent or borrow equipment, check for fit and suitability for wilderness use. Choose skis and boots made for touring or mountaineering. Narrow racing skis may not give you enough surface area to break trail and low shoes may not give you enough ankle support.
- ◆ Even in severe winter temperatures, you can be comfortable and safe if you dress properly to prevent chilling and overheating.
- ◆ Wear clothes in several adjustable layers:
  - ✓ windproof, hooded outer layer
  - ✓ wool or other insulated garments underneath
  - ✓ wool or synthetic trousers
  - ✓ wool or synthetic long underwear
  - ✓ wind or rainpants for warmth on windy days
  - ✓ wool socks
  - ✓ gaiters or overboots
  - ✓ gloves or wool mittens with shells
- ◆ Do not wear cotton clothes of any kind, including jeans, sweatshirts, underwear, socks. They retain moisture and put you at risk for hypothermia.
- ◆ Protect yourself from the sun:
  - ✓ wear dark sunglasses on sunny days
  - ✓ apply sunscreen lotion to avoid sunburn
- ◆ As you plan your trip, allow for limited daylight, changing snow conditions, temperature extremes, and the number of people in the group and their experience and physical condition.
- ◆ On day trips, consider taking some or all of these items to increase your safety:
  - ✓ extra clothing
  - ✓ water & food
  - ✓ matches or lighter
  - ✓ map
  - ✓ compass
  - ✓ ski repair kit
- ◆ If you are planning an overnight ski trip, carry all of the above, plus:
  - ✓ backcountry permit
  - ✓ repair parts and tools
  - ✓ sleeping bag & closed-cell sleeping pad
  - ✓ shovel
  - ✓ easily-prepared food
  - ✓ small tarp
  - ✓ first-aid kit
  - ✓ stove and pots
  - ✓ knife
  - ✓ tent or bivouac bag
  - ✓ probe pole
  - ✓ transceiver

## Winter Trails in Northern Yellowstone

- ◆ A permit is required for all overnight trips in the Yellowstone backcountry. Inquire about backcountry permits at visitor centers or ranger stations.
- ◆ Pack it in—Pack it out: No matter what trail you are on or its length, you must pack out all refuse.



Rent skis & snowshoes at the Bear Den Ski Shops, Mammoth and Old Faithful.

# Exploring Yellowstone

6

Winter 2010–2011

## Now Open! The Old Faithful Visitor Education Center



NPS/Greenburg

August 25, visitors and park employees witnessed the opening of the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. Historian Paul Schullery finished his remarks—and Old Faithful erupted!

This new facility is the result of a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the park's official fundraising partner. The Yellowstone Park Foundation raised \$15 million of the \$27 million needed for construction of the facility. The remaining \$12 million came from federal funds. Its warm and welcoming design invites visitors of all ages inside to learn about the extraordinary hydrothermal features of Yellowstone National Park. You will also be introduced to the fascinating story of life in extreme environments and learn about the underlying volcanic activity that reveals itself through these spectacular natural wonders.

In addition to its state-of-the-art exhibits, the center is full of “green” features:

- ◆ Recycled materials and salvaged wood
- ◆ “Snow zones”—a natural soil moisture recharge system surrounding the building
- ◆ Locally and regionally manufactured materials
- ◆ A ventilation system in the foundation that acts as a thermal buffer to protect the sensitive geothermal area
- ◆ A multi-zone heating and cooling system that allows for a reduced heated space in winter
- ◆ Renewable resources such as cork flooring
- ◆ Low-flow restroom plumbing
- ◆ State-of-the-art lighting to reduce electricity consumption

These features have earned the building a “Gold LEED Certification,” one of a set of national standards for environmentally sound buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is one of the first visitor centers in the National Park System to meet the gold standard.



## Accessibility

Yellowstone National Park is improving accessibility for all visitors. Some boardwalks, trails, picnic tables, and campsites are now accessible. Ask for *Accessibility in Yellowstone*, a free guide available at entrance stations and visitor centers.

### For more information:

Park Accessibility Coordinator  
P.O. Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190  
[www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit)

TDD only (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf):

307-344-2386

## Authorized Guides & Tours

### Yellowstone Association Institute

Programs about wildlife, plants, geology, and history are perfect for curious adults and families who want to spend a day or more exploring the park with a knowledgeable guide. To find out more, visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.

### Xanterra Parks & Resorts

Yellowstone's lodging concessioner also offers a wide variety of park tours and activities during the summer. Visitors can enjoy photo safaris, partial or full day tours, horseback and stage-coach rides, and boating and fishing adventures. For more detailed information pick up an *Experience Planner* at any hotel or visit [www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com](http://www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com).

### Other Certified Guides & Outfitters

Many authorized guides and outfitters are ready to show you the wonders of Yellowstone, and each has a unique approach. To learn about these authorized providers, write to Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, call 307-344-7381, or visit [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell).

### Caution:

#### Unauthorized Tours & Guides

Make sure your guide, tour company, or other commercial service is authorized by the National Park Service. Please report unauthorized operators to a ranger at a visitor center or ranger station or to the Chief, Concessions Management, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190; 307-344-2271.



# Ranger-led Programs

Winter 2010–2011

## Mammoth Hot Springs

Albright Visitor Center • 9 AM–5 PM • Daily, year-round

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
<b>Snowshoe Yellowstone!</b> <i>Starts Dec. 27, ends March 2</i> Experience Yellowstone National Park's winter beauty on a guided snowshoe walk with a park ranger. <b>Snowshoes can be rented at the Bear Den Ski Shop next to the Mammoth Hotel, or bring your own.</b> NOTE: If snow is lacking, this will be a walk without snowshoes. Before renting snowshoes, check at the Albright Visitor Center to find out if you need them. Come prepared with warm, layered clothes, sunglasses, and water. Meet at the Upper Terrace Drive entrance parking area. Moderately strenuous. Beginners welcome! <b>2 hours</b>		2 PM 12/27–2/28		2 PM 12/29–3/2			
<b>Return of the Wolf</b> <i>Starts Dec. 24, ends March 4</i> The northern range of Yellowstone has been a premier place to watch wolves since their reintroduction to this ecosystem in 1995 and 1996. Learn about the wolf's place in the ecosystem and how best to spot and watch wolves. A 20-minute talk will be followed by the hour-long PBS NATURE video <i>In the Valley of the Wolves</i> . Meet at the Albright Visitor Center theater. <b>Free Program.</b> <b>1½ hours, including video.</b> ♿		10 AM 12/27–2/28				3 PM 12/24–3/4	
<b>Evening Program</b> <i>Starts Dec. 25, ends March 5</i> Join a park ranger for an illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone's natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Program descriptions will be posted in the Mammoth Hotel and Albright Visitor Center. Meet in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. <b>Free Program.</b> <b>1 hour</b> ♿					8:30 PM 12/30–3/3	8:30 PM 12/31–3/4	8:30 PM 12/25–3/5

## West Yellowstone

Visitor Information Center • 8 AM–5 PM • Daily, Dec. 15–March 15

Located at the corner of Yellowstone Avenue and Canyon Street.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
<b>Snowshoe Walk</b> <i>Starts Dec. 18, ends March 12</i> Discover Yellowstone's fascinating winter ecology while wearing snowshoes. Join a ranger for a 2-mile walk into Yellowstone National Park along the Riverside Trail. Meet at the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center. <i>No experience necessary!</i> <b>Bring your own snowshoes,</b> plus water and a snack. For information, please call 307-344-2876. <b>Free program.</b> <b>3 hours</b>							1:30 PM 12/18–3/12
<b>Afternoon Talks at the Grizzly &amp; Wolf Discovery Center</b> <i>Starts Dec. 19, ends March 13</i> Join a park ranger for an illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone's natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Weekly program descriptions will be posted in the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center and at the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center at 201 South Canyon Street. Meet at the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center. <b>Free Program,</b> but there is a fee to visit the rest of the center, which is an educational bear and wolf preserve. <b>45 minutes</b> ♿	1:30 PM 3 PM 12/19–3/13						
<b>Evening Program</b> <i>Starts Dec. 26, ends March 13</i> Join a park ranger for an illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone's natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Weekly program descriptions will be posted in the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, which is also the meeting place. <b>Free Program.</b> <b>45 minutes</b> ♿	7 PM 12/26–3/13						7 PM 1/1–3/12

## Old Faithful

Visitor Center • 9 AM–5 PM • Daily, Dec. 15–March 15

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
<b>Geysers Galore!</b> <i>Starts Dec. 15, ends March 15</i> As you wait to watch Old Faithful erupt, discover why Yellowstone has so many geysers. Look into Yellowstone's restless geologic past (and present!) for a story that includes volcanoes and earthquakes. Meet at the benches in front of Old Faithful. Talk starts 20 minutes prior to a predicted mid-day eruption of Old Faithful. Times are posted daily at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. <b>Free Program.</b> <b>20 minutes</b> ♿	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/19–3/13	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/20–3/14	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/21–3/15	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/15–3/9	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/16–3/10	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/17–3/11	Inquire at Old Faithful Visitor Education Center 12/18–3/12
<b>Evening Program</b> <i>Starts Dec. 28, ends March 5</i> Join a park ranger for an illustrated program highlighting a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone's natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Meet at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. Doors open at 7 PM; enter via the main doors on the parking lot side. Weekly program descriptions and locations will be posted in the visitor center and the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. <b>Free Program.</b> <b>45 minutes</b> ♿			7:30 PM 12/28–3/1		7:30 PM 12/30–3/3	7:30 PM 12/31–3/4	7:30 PM 1/1–3/5

♿ = Accessible

🗣️ If you need a sign language interpreter for National Park Service interpretive programs, please make arrangements three weeks in advance by calling 307-344-2251.



NPS/Bathis

NPS/Peaco

NPS/Peaco

# Services

Winter 2010-2011

8

**“They said they’d seen it all**  
in Yellowstone. We politely suggested one of our Lodging & Learning packages. Four days later, that same family couldn’t stop talking about all the new things they’d discovered about the park, and themselves. We just smiled.”



*Yellowstone,  
Don't just see it  
Experience it.*

For individual reservations, winter get-away packages and all other information call:  
866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375)  
travelyellowstone.com

**YELLOWSTONE**  
NATIONAL PARK LODGES  
Operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts®  
BEAUTIFUL PLACES ON EARTH.®

Xanterra Parks & Resorts is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service

- Summer Adventure Packages**
- Yellowstone Couples Adventure**  
(5 nights) June 4 - October 1  
\$1,669.00 per person
- Classic Yellowstone**  
(4 nights) June 14 - September 3  
\$1,259.00
- Total Yellowstone**  
(5 nights) June 5 - August 28  
\$1,159.00 per person
- Summer Lodging & Learning Packages**  
Naturalist-Guided daily adventures  
lodging and meals included
- Essential Yellowstone**  
(5 nights) May 16, 30, June 6, 8,  
September 19 & 26 October 3, 10  
\$1,119.00 per person
- Trails Through Yellowstone**  
(4 nights) May 30, through  
Sept. 26  
\$799.00 per person
- Yellowstone for Families**  
(4 nights) June 5 - August 19  
Mammoth \$2,148.00 (2 adults, 2 children)  
Grant \$2,548.00 (2 adults, 2 children)
- Spring Wolf and Bear Discovery**  
(4 nights) May 14 - June 11  
\$639.00 per person
- Fall Wolf and Elk Discovery**  
(4 nights) August 25 - October 6  
\$619.00 per person
- Old Times on the Grand Tour**  
(6 nights) May 22, 29, June 5,  
July 3, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 14, 28,  
Sept. 4, 11 & 18  
\$1,529.00 per person
- Roosevelt Rendezvous**  
(4 nights) September 9, 13  
\$729.00 per person  
Rates are per person, double occupancy  
and do not include tax or utility fee.

## FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: HELP PROTECT YELLOWSTONE!

### Xanterra's Long Term Commitment to Sustainability

Xanterra provides hospitality in some of the most beautiful places on earth, and we take our role of environmental stewardship very seriously. Through our Ecologix program, we incorporate sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations, from food to fuel, and from emissions reduction to renewable energy.



#### You can help us protect Yellowstone in the following ways:

**Recycle:** For your convenience, we now offer in-room recycling containers for plastic, paper, glass, cardboard, and aluminum. Recycling bins are also located throughout the park. With help from visitors like you, last year we recycled over 1.8 million pounds of material and diverted over 70% of our waste from the landfill!

**Choose Green:** Visit our new For Future Generations: Yellowstone Gifts store in the Mammoth Hotel and check out the wide selection of sustainable products and cool exhibits on climate change.



**Eat Well:** Our restaurants also offer a variety of “green” choices including our great tasting Marine Stewardship Council certified salmon and fair trade, organic coffee. In 2009, 31% of our food purchases were sustainable!

**Conserve Energy:** When staying in the park’s guest rooms, take advantage of the linen reuse program. Be sure to turn off lights and heat when you leave the room.

**Be Green at Home:** Stewardship does not end at national park borders. You can help protect Yellowstone and other national parks from the impacts of climate change and pollution by adopting green practices at home. Please visit the Environmental/Future Generations section of our website [YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com](http://YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com) for a list of green living tips and more information about climate change in our national parks.

*Thank you for helping us preserve Yellowstone!*



Yellowstone General Stores operates twelve retail stores with the attempt to cater to those visiting the world’s first National Park. Each of our General Stores is unique in architecture, and located in scenic settings at each major area throughout Park. Visitors will find our staff to be very helpful in assisting with merchandise, scenic stops or wildlife sightings.

Food and beverage services offer a variety of selections to satisfy any wilderness hunger. Relax with a cup of coffee, ice cream, or snack while taking in the wonders of Yellowstone National Park.

Discover volumes of books with a variety of titles that describe and interpret the Park.

Explore the wide spectrum of collectibles and novelties in our souvenir sections. Themed postcards, posters, and other items are available offering an opportunity to take away more than a memory. Personal memories can also be preserved at photo centers, offering digital film processing, digital card downloads, and other photographic supplies.

Our apparel departments provide a variety of items with designs relating to the different areas of the park that may be worn now or given later as gifts. Outdoor enthusiasts can find a variety of supplies and gear to explore Yellowstone National Park. We offer supplies needed for a cookout, the night’s camping, a day of fishing, hiking, boating, and wildlife watching.

Visit Old Faithful, Grant, Fishing Bridge and Canyon General Stores to join our Pathways at Yellowstone Program to meet talented and interesting artists and authors who make unique Yellowstone products.

Yellowstone General Stores is grateful for the opportunity to operate within Yellowstone National Park, and through our stewardship we protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources for future generations. Our Environmental Management System, GreenPath, is recognized according to international standards, ISO 14001. We implement programs to minimize our impact while operating in a unique pristine environment and strive for continual environmental improvement.



**ATM** 24-hour cash available at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge; and during store hours at the general store at Mammoth Hot Springs. CIRRUS and PLUS network.

**Cell Phones** Coverage is extremely limited in the park. Where service is available, please be courteous of other visitors by keeping your voice low.

**Lost & Found** Call 307-344-5387 to report or retrieve items lost in lodging facilities; call 307-344-2109 to report or retrieve items lost in other parts of the park.

**Recycling** You can recycle glass, cans, mixed paper, cardboard (corrugated & grayboard), plastics 1-7 at Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower-Roosevelt. Inquire locally for locations & for recycling small propane canisters used with camp stoves & lanterns, household batteries, & bear spray.

**Reservations** For lodging, dining, and activity reservations, call Xanterra Parks & Resorts, 307-344-7311, TDD 307-344-5395, or toll-free 866-439-7375. You can also make reservations at lodging front desks or activities desks.

**Tip Line** 307-344-2132 Call the tip line to report a crime or criminal activity. Leave as much detail as you can—who, what, where, when. Leave your name and number, or you can remain anonymous.

## Use the card that protects the wonders and wildlife of Yellowstone!



U.S. Bank contributes a percentage of every purchase to the Yellowstone Park Foundation to help fund projects that protect the wonders and wildlife of Yellowstone National Park.

Go to [www.ypf.org](http://www.ypf.org) or call 1-800-853-5576 (press \*1, then ext. 8301) to sign up for your Yellowstone Park Foundation Visa® Platinum Card today!

U.S. Bank National Association (NSD) is creditor and issuer of the Yellowstone Park Foundation Visa Platinum Card.

Card photos by Tom Magby.

# Concessioner Activities

Winter 2010–2011

9

## Xanterra Parks & Resorts December 18–March 7

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>INTERPRETIVE SNOWCOACH TOURS</b> Full and half-day adventures in heated over-snow vehicles.							
From West Yellowstone to Old Faithful: \$57	Noon–3:45 PM						
From Old Faithful to West Yellowstone: \$57	7:30 AM–11 AM						
From Mammoth to Old Faithful: \$70	7:30 AM–Noon						
From Old Faithful to Mammoth: \$70	1:30–6 PM						
From Old Faithful to Flagg Ranch: \$70	8:30–11:45 AM						
From Flagg Ranch to Old Faithful: \$70	12:30–4:45 PM						
Canyon Day Tour, from Old Faithful: \$130 <i>You may want to order a box lunch the evening prior</i>	8:15 AM–6 PM	8:15 AM–6 PM		8:15 AM–6 PM	8:15 AM–6 PM		8:15 AM–6 PM
Canyon Day Tour, from Mammoth: \$125 <i>You may want to order a box lunch the evening prior</i>	8:15 AM–5 PM		8:15 AM–5 PM		8:15 AM–5 PM		
Firehole Basin Adventure, from Old Faithful: \$32.75	12:45–4 PM	12:45–4 PM	12:45–4 PM		12:45–4 PM	12:45–4 PM	
Norris Geyser Basin Tour, from Mammoth: \$57 <i>Strenuous, if you choose to walk around the geyser basin</i>	12:15–5:30 PM	12:15–5:30 PM	12:15–5:30 PM			12:15–5:30 PM	12:30–5:30 PM
Old Faithful Photo Safari, from Old Faithful: \$150 <i>You may want to order a box lunch the evening prior</i>			7:45 AM–2 PM			7:45 AM–2 PM	
Steam, Stars, & Winter Soundscapes, from Old Faithful: \$35	6:30–9 PM						
<b>INTERPRETIVE BUS TOURS (no skiing)</b>							
Wake Up to Wildlife, from Mammoth: \$32, adults; \$16 children. <i>Receive a 20% discount on the Norris Geyser Basin Tour if you book this tour.</i>	6:45–11 AM						
Lamar Valley Wildlife Tour, from Mammoth: \$30, adults.				12:45–4 PM			12:45–4 PM
<b>SKI AND SNOWSHOE TOURS</b>							
Grand Canyon Ski Tour, from Old Faithful: \$140			7:45 AM–6 PM			7:45 AM–6 PM	
Grand Canyon Ski Tour, from Mammoth: \$140							7:45 AM–6 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddles, Old Faithful to Fairy Falls: \$45							11:45 AM–5 PM
Afternoon Ski-Daddles, Old Faithful to DeLacy Creek: \$45				11:45 AM–5 PM			
Guided Snowshoe Tour, Old Faithful: \$32 tour with snowshoe rental \$25 without snowshoe rental	8:15–11:30 AM				8:15–11:30 AM		
<b>EXPRESS SNOWCOACH TRIPS</b> Old Faithful Express to West Yellowstone: \$55 one way, daily, 6:30–8:30 AM and 1:15–3:30 PM • <i>For the early express, you may want to order a box breakfast the evening prior</i> West Yellowstone Express to Old Faithful: \$55 one way, daily, 8:30–10:45 AM							
<b>SKI/SNOWSHOE DROPS &amp; SHUTTLES</b> Old Faithful Snow Lodge to either Divide or Fairy Falls: \$15 one way, daily, 7:45 AM, 8:45 AM, 9:45 AM, 10:45 AM • <i>No pickups, you must return by ski or snowshoe</i> Mammoth Hotel to Indian Creek: \$15 round trip, daily, 8:15 AM, 10 AM, 12 NOON, 1:45 PM, 3:30 PM • <i>Last pickup from Indian Creek is 4:30 PM</i>							



## Winter Getaway Packages

Xanterra Parks & Resorts is again offering Winter Getaway value packages, which make it easier to enjoy the park under its frosty cover. Mammoth packages include a 1-hour hot tub rental and unlimited ice-skating. Old Faithful packages include unlimited ice-skating, round-trip snow-coach transportation per person. Plus, each package includes a minimum 2 nights lodging, breakfast each day, a welcome gift, and a Snow Card (The Snow Card is good for 10% off of meals, select gifts, in-park transportation, tours, ski shop services and snowmobile rentals. It is valid all winter, so keep it for your next visit!) Rates listed here are valid January 2–March 7, 2011, and do not include tax or utility fee.

Visit our website at [www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com](http://www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com) for details. To reserve, stop by one of the hotel front desks or call us at 307-344-7311 or toll-free at 866-Geyserland (866-439-7375).

### Frosty Fun Package

Mammoth:  
\$129 Per Person Double Occupancy  
\$209 Single Occupancy  
Old Faithful:  
\$289 Per Person Double Occupancy  
\$429 Single Occupancy

### Trail of the Wolf

Offered Monday & Thursday. Includes 3 nights lodging, and components of Frosty Fun, Guided Snowmobile Tour, and Wake Up to Wildlife Tour.

Mammoth: \$419 Double Occupancy  
\$752 Single Occupancy

Old Faithful: \$549 Double Occupancy  
\$912 Single Occupancy

### Nordic Heaven

Includes components of Frosty Fun plus ski/equipment rental and unlimited ski drops per person.

Mammoth:  
\$179 Per Person Double Occupancy  
\$259 Single Occupancy

Old Faithful:  
\$339 Per Person Double Occupancy  
\$479 Single Occupancy

# Supporting the National Park Service in Yellowstone

10

In the early years after the National Park Service was created in 1916, its first Director, Stephen T. Mather, knew that building public support for a fledgling National Park System was crucial for its future. Resourcefulness and philanthropy helped sustain our parks then, and have played important roles throughout the history of the system. In Yellowstone National Park, two nonprofit partners—The Yellowstone Park Foundation and The Yellowstone Association—support the National Park Service’s mission and goals.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation (YPF) is the park’s official fundraising partner. YPF works in cooperation with the National Park Service to fund projects and programs that protect, preserve, and enhance natural and cultural resources and the visitor experience in Yellowstone. One of YPF’s most visible accomplishments is providing over half of the funding needed to build the new Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. The Old Faithful live streaming webcam is another innovative service that has been funded by Canon USA through the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and dozens of other projects have been accomplished through YPF’s support.

The Yellowstone Association (YA) is the park’s official nonprofit educational partner. YA works in cooperation with the National Park Service in its primary role of supporting visitor information, orientation, and education through the sales of educational materials and services in park visitor centers. Proceeds from sales and memberships have funded exhibits at the Canyon Visitor Education Center, the new geology film, *Yellowstone: Land to Life*, web videos and podcasts, and dozens of outdoor exhibits, publications, online features, and other NPS programs. See below to find out more about each organization.

*Protecting the Wonders and Wildlife  
of Yellowstone National Park*



## THE YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION



With the support of Friends of Yellowstone the Foundation funds critical Park projects such as:

- wildlife and fisheries conservation
- historic preservation
- hiking trail restoration
- \$15 million toward the new state-of-the-art Old Faithful Visitor Education Center
- and many more

To learn more  
or to donate online visit us at  
[www.ypf.org](http://www.ypf.org)

Your support makes a difference!  
Donate now and receive a free t-shirt.

\$30  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check. (Make check payable to the Yellowstone Park Foundation.)

Please charge my credit card. (Choose one)

Amex  Diners Club  Discover  MC  Visa

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail donations to: Yellowstone Park Foundation  
222 East Main Street, Suite 301, Bozeman, MT 59715 406.586.6303



T-shirt size  
Please check one:  
 Medium  
 Large  X-Large

## JOIN THE PACK!

Receive a FREE gift and enjoy savings  
throughout the park  
when you become a member.



Join the nonprofit  
**Yellowstone Association**  
and receive

# 25% OFF

your first purchase PLUS 15% OFF future purchases in  
any of our educational Park Stores in visitor centers  
and at the North Entrance.

## AND GET 15% OFF\*

all purchases in retail locations operated by  
Yellowstone General Stores and Xanterra Parks &  
Resorts® Gift Shops located throughout Yellowstone  
National Park.



## YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION

Contact us directly at: 406-848-2400  
Online at: [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org)

\*Exclusions apply. Inquire at each location for details.  
You must present membership card to receive discounts.

INSPIRE. EDUCATE. PRESERVE.

# Park Challenges

Winter 2010–2011

11

## Winter Use



© C. Duckworth

Yellowstone National Park and the National Park Service (NPS) have begun a new long-term plan for managing winter use in America's first national park. The plan will take effect in the winter of 2011–12, when the present two-year interim plan expires.

For more than a decade, the question of snowmobile and snowcoach use in the park has provoked intense discussions and debates, as well as numerous lawsuits and court decisions.

Getting involved in Yellowstone National Park's next winter use plan means submitting your comments in person, on paper, or in cyberspace. Whatever medium you choose, make your ideas and opinions known as this important planning document is prepared.

To stay current on winter-use planning, go to [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteruse.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/winteruse.htm).

## Climate Change



NPS photo

Yellowstone's ecosystems will likely change as climate change advances. Scientists expect increased temperatures and changing rain & snow patterns in the park. Effects could be:

- ◆ The alpine zone, which begins at 9500 feet, may shift higher, with important species like whitebark pine almost entirely lost to the ecosystem.
- ◆ Wildland fire in the western states generally is expected to intensify. However, scientific research is showing a different possibility in Yellowstone: fires may be more frequent, but *smaller and less intense*, than today.
- ◆ Increased insect infestations in trees. Currently, two types of pine bark beetles and a spruce budworm are at work.

- ◆ Declining wetlands, which will decrease essential habitat for frogs, salamanders, and many birds and insects.
- ◆ Wildlife predictions vary. Bison, elk, and other grassland animals should be able to find suitable habitat. Grizzly bears will have less of their most valuable foods: whitebark pine nuts, army cutworm moths, and cutthroat trout.

In October 2010, Yellowstone National Park hosted a scientific conference on climate change in Yellowstone. Abstracts are available at [www.greateryellowstonescience.org/gyesciconf2010](http://www.greateryellowstonescience.org/gyesciconf2010); proceedings are expected in the coming year.

**Declining amounts of snow will decrease surface and groundwater, which might affect hydrothermal features.**

## When Buffalo Roam



NPS photo

During winter, bison often migrate to winter range along and outside the park's north and west boundaries. This concerns the livestock industry because some bison carry the disease brucellosis, which is a problem with cattle. A bison management plan is in place to conserve the Yellowstone bison population and minimize or avoid the risk of Yellowstone bison mixing with livestock near the park.

### Hazing & Capture

Bison migrating from the park may be hazed to management zones inside or outside the park. When hazing is no longer successful, bison can be captured, and may be sent to slaughter.

### Understanding Bison Movement

Managers are studying bison movements to understand when, how, and where they migrate both inside and outside of the park. This may help managers anticipate large herd movements, and to keep bison apart from cattle.

### Vaccination

In 2010, the NPS released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), *Remote Vaccination Program for Bison in Yellowstone National Park*. The NPS is evaluating public comments and expects to release the final EIS in late 2011.

### Bison Hunt

The state of Montana manages a public bison hunt on public lands outside Yellowstone National Park during the late fall and winter. In addition, several tribes exercise their treaty rights to hunt bison outside the park.

### Outlook

State and federal agencies will continue to work together to prevent bison-to-cattle transmission. Each agency plays a separate role in managing this population that now has approximately 80,000 acres of habitat in Montana outside Yellowstone National Park.

Find out more about Yellowstone's challenges at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell) or [www.greateryellowstonescience.org](http://www.greateryellowstonescience.org), and in *Yellowstone Resources & Issues*, available at park bookstores.

## SAVE on Entrance Fees!



The "America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" provides several pass options for people to use at federal recreation sites—including national parks and wildlife refuges—where entrance fees are charged.

You can purchase this pass at one of Yellowstone's entrance stations or go to <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>. The pass is not

good for camping or for some other fees such as parking fees at Mount Rushmore or cave tours at various parks. Be sure to inquire locally.

Previously issued Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports are still accepted. You can also trade them in for the new and more durable passes.

### Entrance Fees for Yellowstone & Grand Teton

Private, noncommercial automobile	\$25 (7 days, both Yellowstone and Grand Teton)
Individual motorcycle	\$20 (7 days, both parks)
Single entry (foot, bike, ski, etc.)	\$12 (7 days, both parks)
Yellowstone–Grand Teton Pass	\$50 (valid one year from month of purchase)
America the Beautiful Pass—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass	\$80 (valid for one year from month of purchase for entrance fees to federal fee areas)
Senior Pass	\$10—for U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who are 62 or older.
Access Pass	Free—for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to permanently disabled and present such documentation.

# YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER

[www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit)

**SPEED KILLS**  
more than  
**100**  
deer  
moose  
bears  
elk  
bison  
wolves

**each year**



**SLOW DOWN**  
and save a life

**Oversnow Travel Ends in March**

Roads close to oversnow travel at **9 PM** as follows:

- March 1: East Entrance to Lake Butte
- March 6: Mammoth to Norris
- March 8: Madison to Norris to Canyon
- March 13: Canyon to Fishing Bridge
- March 15: All other park roads close to oversnow travel

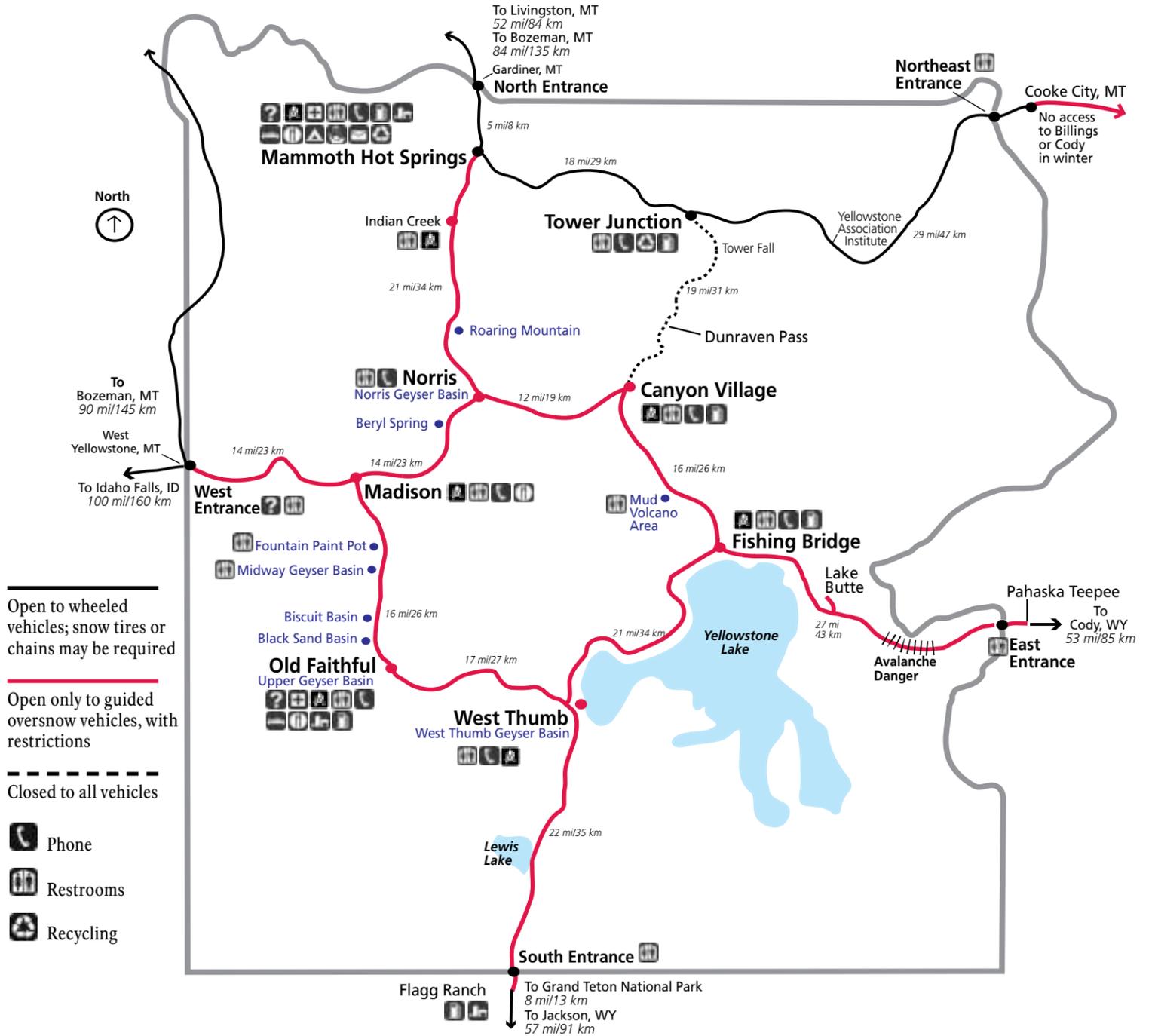
Roads close at **9 PM** on the days listed.

*The road between the North & Northeast entrances is open to wheeled vehicles all year.*

**Spring Road Openings**  
*Weather Permitting*

- April 15: Mammoth to Old Faithful; Madison Junction to West Entrance; Norris Junction to Canyon
- May 6: Canyon to Lake, Lake to East Entrance (Lake is one mile south of Fishing Bridge)
- May 13: Lake to South Entrance, West Thumb to Old Faithful, Tower Junction to Tower Fall
- May 27: Tower Fall to Canyon (Dunraven Pass); Beartooth Hwy.

*This park newspaper is funded by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and a generous donation from the Yellowstone Association.*



Winter Services						
	Mammoth Hot Springs	West Entrance & Madison	Canyon Village	Fishing Bridge	Old Faithful	West Thumb
<b>Visitor Information &amp; Bookstore</b>	Albright Visitor Center Year-round, except Thanksgiving. 9 AM-5 PM	West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM  NPS rangers available daily, 8 AM-5 PM Dec. 15-March 15  No bookstore	Canyon Visitor Center Daily, approx. 9 AM-3 PM Dec. 15-March 13  Warming hut use only. See below.  Bookstore & exhibits not open		Old Faithful Visitor Education Center Daily, 9 AM-5 PM Dec. 15-March 15  Bookstore & exhibits open	
<b>Medical Clinic</b>	8:30-5, Monday-Thursday 8:30-1, Friday 307-344-7965				Intermittent. Call Mammoth for appointment.	
<b>Warming Hut</b>	Mammoth Dec. 21-March 6 8 AM-5 PM Vending machine snacks; cold drinks.  Indian Creek Dec. 15-March 6 Not staffed.	Madison Dec. 15-March 15 Light snacks & hot drinks sold during the day; vending machine snacks available any time.	Dec. 15-March 13 Approx. 9 AM-3 PM Vending machine snacks; cold drinks. Restrooms open 24 hours a day.	Dec. 15-March 15 Vending machine snacks; cold drinks.	Dec. 15-March 15 Daytime only. Vending machine snacks; cold drinks.	Dec. 15-March 15 No food or water available.
<b>Supplies &amp; Gifts</b>	General Store closed some Sundays & holidays  Hotel Gift Shop; Bear Den Ski Shop Dec. 21-March 7				Lodge Gift Shop Dec. 15-March 15  Bear Den Ski Shop Dec. 15-March 15	
<b>Dining</b>	General Store lunch on weekdays  Mammoth Hotel Dec. 21-March 7				Snow Lodge Dec. 18-March 6  Geyser Grill Dec. 15-March 15	
<b>Hotel</b>	Dec. 21-March 7				Dec. 18-March 6	
<b>Snowmobile Gas</b>	Dec. 21-March 6 Staffed 8-5 daily		Dec. 15-March 13 Credit Card Fueling	Dec. 15-March 15 Credit Card Fueling	Dec. 15-March 15 Credit Card Fueling	
<b>Campground</b>	Year-round				Primitive only Dec. 15-March 15	

**All WINTER SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Call the park or check the website.**