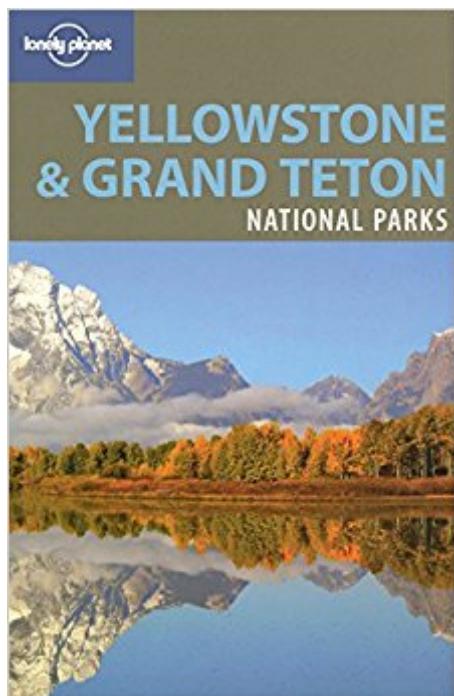


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Lonely Planet Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks



Synopsis

Wild Yellowstone amazes visitors with its hydrothermal spectacles and free-roaming bison, while Grand Teton thrills with its rugged mountains and icy lakes. Whether you want to gaze at Old Faithful or hike among the peaks, gear up with this top-selling guide to two of the USA's most spectacular national parks. Detailed Itineraries - explore Yellowstone and Grand Teton with over 20 great itineraries, plus trips to Jackson Hole and Cody, and along the Beartooth Highway. Best Hiking Routes - includes 40 of the most enjoyable hikes around lakes and geysers, up mountains and into the backcountry, with easy-to-use charts and topographic hiking maps. Family Friendly Options - information on education programs, campfire talks, ranger walks and the best hikes for little legs in our special Kids & Pets chapter. Adventure Ideas - covers hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, rafting, wolf-watching, snowboarding, dogsledding, kayaking, swimming, volunteering and much more. With 2000 hours of in-park research and over 280 miles of trails hiked, our authors offer sound advice for visitors.

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Customer Reviews

...it would be hard to better this series of Lonely Planet National Park guides.' -- Suite101.com, March 2008

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do* We offer travelers

the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages.* We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are.* We update our guidebooks by visiting thousands of places in person to get the details right and tell it as it is.* We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent.* We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world.* We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive.

What We Believe

We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

NOTE : this is included in my review of Yellowstone Sources "Yellowstone Library Resources Evaluated"<http://yellowstone2015.blogspot.com/2014/11/the-yellowstone-library-resources.html> which is designed to serve as an annotated guide to Yellowstone titles. This is my first experience with Lonely Planet and I thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact of all the "Guides" I looked at this is perhaps the best introduction with enough meat on the bone to plan a first time trip. LPY>NP begins with a list of ten top experiences. They pick wildlife in Lamar, followed by the Upper Geyser Basin, Jackson Lake, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Climbing Grand Teton (way above my skill level) and ends with the Beartooth. The "If You Like" features is a ten thousand foot view of Wildlife, Thermal Features, Scenic Drives, Backcountry Trips, The Good Life, Winter, Learning, The Wild West and the Adrenaline Rush "œ clinging, white-water rafting, paragliding zip lines (all above my skill level). For those who prefer a calendar approach LPY>NP accommodates. Little did I know admission to the reenactment of Custer's Last Stand in June 25th was free? The itineraries section, to steal a line from Claude Raines, "rounds up the usual suspects" but note that the "grand loop" can be avoided. They suggest a one day loop for Yellowstone South, Yellowstone North, four days Jackson Hole & Tetons, Teton in a Day, One week Yellowstone to Paradise (includes the Beartooth) and a four day Yellowstone "Big Loop". The activities section covers hiking, cycling, rafting, canoeing, fishing, wildlife watching, horseback riding, nature walks, snowboarding and skiing arranged by season. Our interests are hiking (easy day hiking or as I call it "strolling") and nature watching. They do a nice job of linking to individual hikes. These descriptions include duration, distance, difficulty, elevation change, start and finish, nearest junction and a summary. The

information in the other sections seems as robust, but I can only remember Father fly fishing on the Gallatin 45 years ago — falling over and stripping to his skivvies to stay warm. A section for “Travel with Children (something I haven’t had experience with for thirty years) provides interesting advice and tips. The highly touted “Junior Ranger” program is highlighted along with the Grand Adventure, Yellowstone Wildlife Olympics and Young Scientist Program. The Children’s Highlight list includes Adventure, Entertainment, Dining, Rainy Day Refuges and Coolest Camps and a section on safety. Travel with Pets, something total virgin to me, is covered. A list of accommodations for pets is provided. The “On The Road” section is split between the parks. The usual suspects are covered but they include something I had not heard of the Bechler region. LPY>NP organizes this section into Sights, Driving , Day Hikes, Overnight Hikes, Cycling, Other Activities. Further sections are provide for Sleeping, Eating & Drinking, Shipping and Getting Around. Each section starts off with a brief overview. Some regions receive considerably more detail than others. Lake has three paragraphs Canyon has six — including a very nice map. My knowledge of GTNP is significantly less than the northern big brother I ended up learning a lot. There is a section on “Understand Yellowstone and Grand Teton” which discuss the history, geology, wildlife and conservation efforts in the parks. There is a lot of detail though not to the extent of the complete tomes of Haines History or Bryan’s Geysers. The “Survival Guide” section is basic A-Z reference from accommodations to work. The Transportation section covers air and land (including my preference Amtrak) with bicycle and bus. Clothing & Equipment ranges from clothing to footwear and socks through tents, tarps and sleeping bags. I intend to use none of the latter Nicely linked to complete and thorough details. It is a nice feature that many of the maps are pre-loaded so you need not have a connection to view them. There are some good checklists, which un-seasoned travelers may find very helpful. A list of local outfitters for gear and boats is included. I would thought they might use more hyperlinks, but understanding the fluidity of the web I have some sympathy why there were not included. Perhaps the biggest limitation is the lack of an index and perhaps that is the librarian coming out in me although the Kindle search works well. It has a table of contents, but the old librarian has habits that are hard to break. If I were to purchase a single “travel guide” I would purchase this one.

This is an indispensable guide to Yellowstone and Tetons, filled with lots of information. It is

particularly helpful for those who want to get away from the crowds, which there are plenty of in both parks. Lots of great tips about hiking and camping and other outdoors topics. Excellent reviews for places to stay, including campgrounds, as well as towns around the park and places to eat. Great background information. Frustrating however was the organization. Even though there were some detailed maps, it was difficult to figure out where each section of Yellowstone was -- not shown on an overview map. Equally maddening was finding information about eating options. After hours of reviewing the contents I started to understand the authors' twisted organizational logic. But I got a good chuckle after handing the book to someone else, asking her to find information about eating options in the Old Faithful area. She practically gave up trying to find the right page!

This book is covers much of the region, and our trip primarily focused on Yellowstone. We found this to be much better for planning a trip than for navigating through the park. The sections are not logically organized by park region, rather they have "Day Hike", or "Overnight Trips" that span several geographic areas. The book was especially poor for answering the question, "what else can we do around this area?", as there were no maps. It was somewhat difficult to compare the book to the park map; I would have preferred an integrated solution. For what it's worth, my brother in law showed up on our family vacation with the same book (good marketing by Lonely Planet) and similarly expressed a 2/5 star opinion. Their trip focused more on backpacking and fishing over 7 days. We mostly did hiking, ranger walks, etc with two kids.

I bought the book in July 2003 prior to our first trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Since then, my wife and I have been to these two magnificent parks five times. We have relied many times on Lonely Planet travel books, and this one has been immensely helpful over the years. We've decided to retire the book and go with the newer 2016 edition for our next trip, probably getting the Kindle edition. Highly recommended for travelers to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

We used this book constantly on our trip to Yellowstone. With little internet access inside the park there wasn't much Google could do for us. This book answered every question we had. It helped us to find activities and hikes during down time we didn't plan for, and gave great information on the animals and geological features in the park. It was a lifesaver when it was pouring rain and hailing so hard that we couldn't set up our tent, the hotel guide was invaluable.

For my trip I had done most of my planning on the internet and I purchased this book expecting that I wouldn't use it much. Contrary to what I had thought, I extensively consulted it in the absence of cellular/internet access. There is a lot to do in Yellowstone and Grand Teton and this guide serves as a handy reference. It contains detailed information about attractions in areas like Canyon, Mammoth, Geyser Basin, Lake country etc. It also has information about things to check out while driving from one place to another within the park. This guide has planned itineraries for families, solo-travellers, campers, hikers, travellers with pets etc. Everything is indexed and easy to lookup. At this price point it is a great buy for every traveller.

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