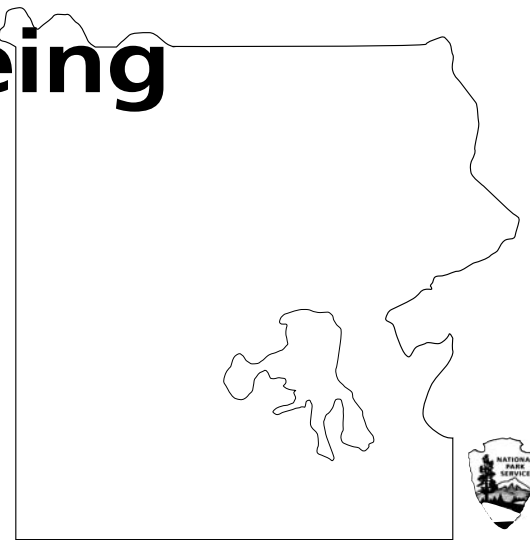


Skiing & Snowshoeing

In Yellowstone National Park



West Yellowstone & Gallatin Areas



Trails in the Gallatin and West Yellowstone areas of Yellowstone National Park provide opportunities for scenic backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.

The Riverside Trail (see below) starts north of the park entrance on Boundary Street in West Yellowstone.

To reach the Gallatin trails (described on the reverse), drive north of West Yellowstone on Highway 191.

Wildlife

You will be traveling through essential winter habitat for wildlife. If animals are disturbed, they burn body fat necessary for survival. Avoid stressing them:

- Never approach them.
- Give animals time to move away from you.
- Ski around a herd, never through it.
- Always allow animals an escape route through shallow snow or on a packed wildlife trail.

Bear encounters are possible in the winter. Be extra cautious during late fall and early spring.

For Your Safety

- Never ski alone.
- Make sure someone knows your plans and expected time of return.
- Dress in layers to prevent overheating and chilling. Wear wool or quick-drying synthetics. Do NOT wear cotton.
- Know the signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Carry water, extra clothing, high energy snack food, emergency equipment, and first-aid kit.

Regulations

- Pets are not allowed.
- Fires are not allowed.
- Snowmobiles are not allowed on ski trails.

Trail Etiquette

- Do not snowshoe or walk directly on ski tracks.
- Always yield to those going downhill.

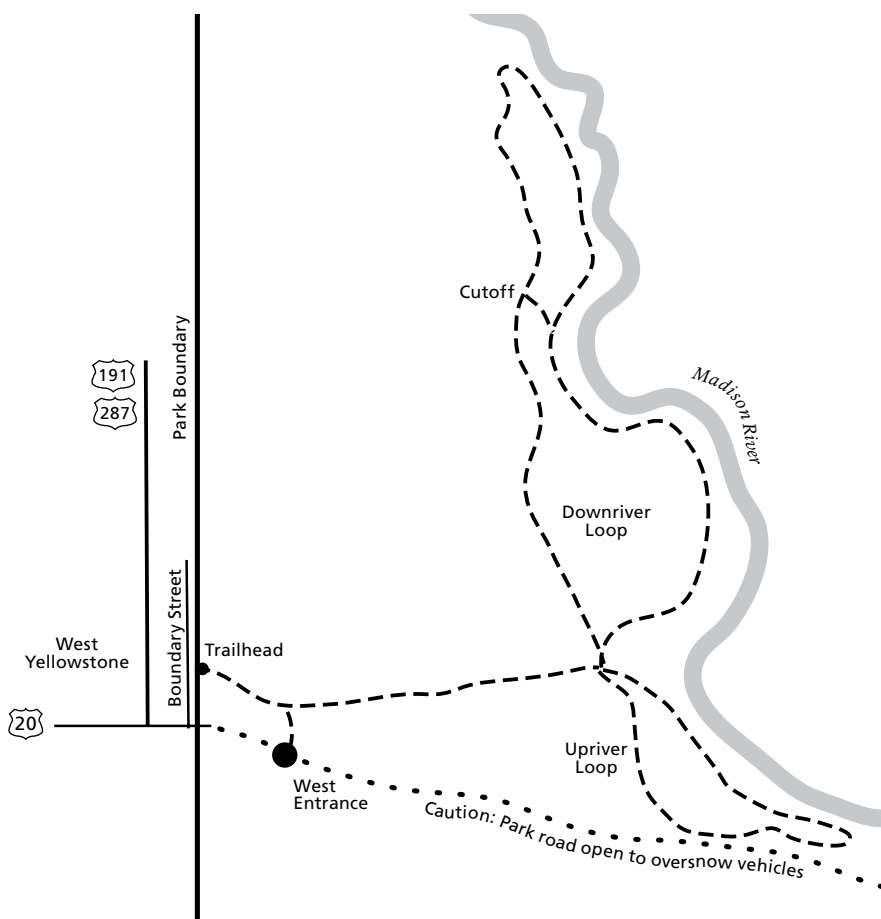
Overnight Trips

You must obtain a free backcountry use permit from the West District Office for overnight trips in the Gallatin area; overnight camping is not allowed in the Riverside Trail area.

★ Avalanches ★

- Avalanche hazard can be high on Gallatin Area trails. Definite avalanche hazards exist on trails marked with a ★.
- Avalanches most commonly occur on slopes of 30–45°, but can happen on any slope.
- Avalanches increase during or after high winds, extreme temperature changes, and heavy snow.
- Call the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, 406-587-6981, for recorded avalanche advisories or the West District Office, 406-344-2880, for a current forecast.
- Carry a shovel, avalanche transceiver, probe, and first-aid kit—and know how to use them.
- Cross slopes one at a time while others watch.

West Yellowstone Area Ski and Snowshoe Trails



Riverside Trail

Distances:

- Boundary Street Trailhead to loops: 1 mi/1.6 km
- Downriver loop, full: 3.5 mi/5.6 km
- Downriver loop, short: 2.3 mi/3.7 km
- Upriver loop: 1.5 mi/2.4 km

Trailhead: East side of Boundary Street at Madison Avenue.

Ski for one mile through forest to the loop trail junctions, which are on a bench above the Madison River. The trail to your right, the upriver loop, provides panoramic views of the Madison River and the Gallatin Range. The trail to your left, the downriver loop, traverses open forests and meadows along the Madison River, providing scenic views of the Gallatins. A cutoff trail shortens the trip by 1.3 mi/2.1 km. Return to the trailhead via the approach trail. Look for elk, bald eagles, and waterfowl.

The first two miles (West Entrance to loop junction and part of downriver loop) may be intermittently groomed for classic ski tracks.

- Ski/Snowshoe Trail
- Plowed Roads
- Groomed road open to oversnow vehicles

Gallatin Area Ski and Snowshoe Trails

Daly Creek

Distance: 6 mi/9.7 km, one way

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 30 miles/48.3 km north of West Yellowstone

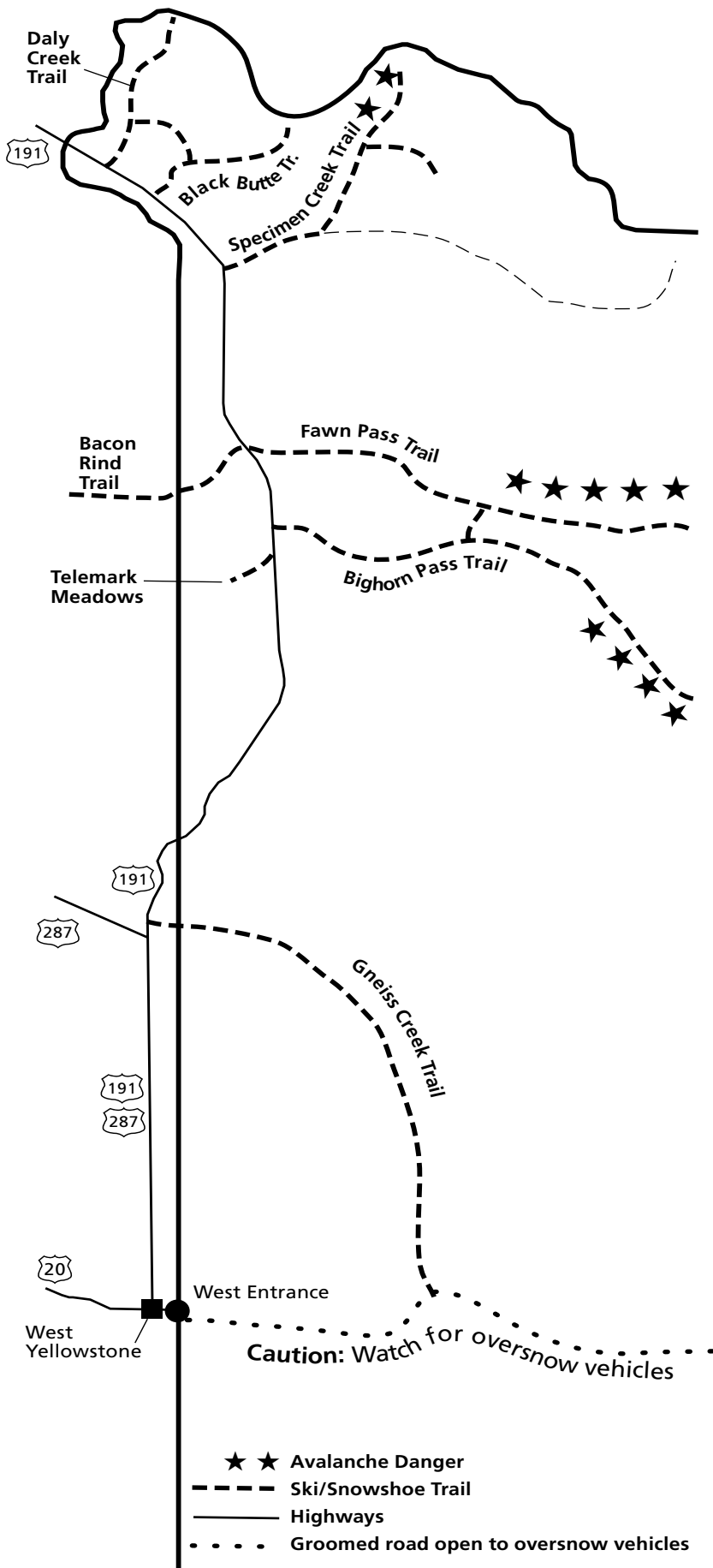
Trail ascends through meadows for 2 miles/3.2 km to the Black Butte Cutoff, which leads 2 miles/3.2 km to the Black Butte Trail. The trail continues about 4 miles/6.4 km to the Sky Rim Trail and Park boundary. The Daly Creek drainage lies in a snow shadow, resulting in minimal snow cover.

Black Butte

Distance: 7 mi/11.3 km, one way

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 28.8 miles/46.3 km north of West Yellowstone

The trail follows Black Butte Creek with numerous short, steep uphill sections, gaining 769 ft/234 m in elevation between the trailhead and Daly Creek Cutoff. The cutoff leads 2 miles/3.2 km to the Daly Creek Trail. Beyond the Daly Creek Cutoff, the trail climbs for 4 miles/6.4 km to Bighorn Peak. The last 2 miles/3.2 km are not recommended because the trail becomes extremely steep and hard to follow, and the last quarter mile (0.4 km) is dangerously exposed.



★ AVALANCHE DANGER

★ Specimen Creek

Distance: 8 mi/12.9 km, one way

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 26.5 miles/42.6 km north of West Yellowstone

Snow cover ranges from sparse to marginal on the lower reaches.

Avalanche Danger: *Moderate to severe on Shelf Lake Trail portion.*

This popular route follows the north side of Specimen Creek for 2 miles/3.2 km through rolling forests to the Sportsman Lake Trail junction on the south (right). (Sportsman Lake Trail is not recommended.) Follow the trail to the left along the north fork of Specimen Creek, ascending through forests and meadows for 4 miles/6.4 km to the Shelf Lake and Crescent Lake Trail junction. Shelf Lake lies 2 miles/3.2 km north and Crescent Lake is 2 miles/3.2 km east. The last mile of each trail is extremely steep; climbing skins are recommended.

Bacon Rind Creek

Distance: 8 mi/12.9 km, one way

Trailhead: West side of U.S. 191, 23 miles/37 km north of West Yellowstone

Trail starts on the north side of Bacon Rind Creek and continues over flat terrain 2 miles/3.2 km to the Park boundary. The trail becomes difficult to follow as it heads into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area.

★ Fawn Pass

Distances:

Total, one way: 11 mi/17.7 km

Trailhead to Bighorn Pass Cutoff: 5 mi/8 km

Bighorn Pass Cutoff to Fawn Pass: 6 mi/9.7 km

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 22 miles/35.4 km north of West Yellowstone

Avalanche Danger: *Moderate in the last 6 miles/9.7 km to Fawn Pass.*

After crossing several fingers of the Gallatin River, the trail gradually ascends 700 ft/213.4 m in 5 mi/8 km to the Bighorn Pass Trail Cutoff. (The cutoff trail switchbacks downhill 1 mile/1.6 km to Bighorn Pass Trail.) The trail then climbs to Fawn Pass, which is 6 miles/9.7 km from the cutoff junction. Return the same way.

★ Bighorn Pass

Distances:

Total, one way: 10.5 mi/17 km

Trailhead to Fawn Pass Cutoff: 4.5 mi/7.2 km

Fawn Pass Cutoff to Bighorn Pass: 6 mi/9.7 km

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 20.5 miles/33 km north of West Yellowstone

Avalanche Danger: *Extreme in the last 2 miles/3.2 km to Bighorn Pass.*

You need to cross the Gallatin River about 0.5 m/0.8 km east of the highway—use caution. Trail crosses meadows with little elevation change from the trailhead to Fawn Pass Cutoff. (The cutoff trail switchbacks uphill 1 mile/1.6 km to Fawn Pass Trail.) The trail then climbs to Bighorn Pass, which is 6 miles/9.7 km from the cutoff junction. Return the same way.

Telemark Meadows

Trailhead: West side of U.S. 191, 18 miles/29 km north of West Yellowstone

No marked trails here, but gentle slopes suitable for beginning through advanced telemark skiers.

Gneiss Creek Trail

Distance: 14 mi/23 km, one way

Trailhead: East side of U.S. 191, 9.5 miles/15.2 km north of West Yellowstone. Ski across rolling meadows and through open forests on this lightly-used trail. Trail crosses several creeks—use caution. *Return the same way or ski back along the snow road from Seven Mile Bridge to West Yellowstone (7 miles/11.3 km).*