# Yellowstone Backcountry Trip Planner

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**Yellowstone Backcountry Trip Planner**

**Important Phone Numbers**

**Backcountry Camping Permits**
Central Backcountry Office: ................................................................. (307) 344-2160
Email: ........................................................................................... yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov

**Yellowstone Road Conditions**
24 hours a day: .................................................................................... (307) 344-2117
Wyoming Road Information: ............................................................. (888) WYO-ROAD (1-888-996-7623)
Website: ........................................................................................ www.wyoroad.info
Montana Road Information: ............................................................... (800) 226-7623
Website: .......................................................................................... www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo

**Emergency Numbers**
Emergencies: ..................................................................................... Dial 9-1-1
Non-emergencies: ............................................................................. (307) 344-7381
To report a crime (This is an unstaffed number): ............................... (307) 344-2132

**Lodging (Xanterra Parks & Resorts)**
Reservations: .................................................................................... (307) 344-7311 or (866) 439-7375
Website: ............................................................................................ www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com

**Frontcountry Campgrounds**
(Bridge Bay, Canyon, Fishing Bridge RV Park, Grant Village, and Madison accept reservations)
Same-day Reservations: ................................................................. (307) 344-7901
Advanced Reservations: ................................................................. (307) 344-7311
Website: ............................................................................................ www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com

**Telecommunications Device for the Deaf**
TDD Services .................................................................................... (307) 344-5395

**Visitor Centers**
Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs: .................... (307) 344-2263
Canyon Visitor Education Center: ................................................... (307) 344-2550
Fishing Bridge Visitor Center: ............................................................ (307) 344-2450
Grant Visitor Center: ........................................................................ (307) 344-2650
Madison Information Station: .......................................................... (307) 344-2821
Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris: ............................ (307) 344-2812
Old Faithful Visitor Education Center: ........................................... (307) 344-2750
West Thumb Information Center: ................................................... (307) 344-2650
West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center (NPS Desk): ............ (307) 344-2876

**General Visitor Information**
Recorded Park Information: ............................................................. (307) 344-7381
Yellowstone Backcountry Trip Planner

Seasonal Hours of Operation And Park Entrance Fees

Spring

April 15, 2016
8:00 a.m wheeled vehicle travel opens at both the North and West Entrances. Vehicles will have access to Norris, Madison, Canyon and Old Faithful areas.

May 6, 2016
Canyon Junction to Lake; Lake to East Entrance (Sylvan Pass).

May 13, 2016
The South Entrance to Grant, West Thumb, Fishing Bridge, & Lake

May 27, 2016
Weather Permitting, Dunraven Pass (Tower to Canyon), Beartooth Highway

Summer Season (June - November)
All roads within the park are open 24 hours a day.

Fall
All park roads are open 24 hours a day through early November.

Winter Season
Gardiner to Cooke City is the only road open to wheeled vehicles year-round. All other travel during the winter months is via snowcoach or snowmobile as indicated below.

December 15
Most roads open to snowcoach and snowmobile travel (weather and snow conditions permitting).

December 22
East Entrance Road (between East Entrance and Fishing Bridge) opens to snowcoach and snowmobile travel.

Park Entrance Fees

7-Day Park Pass: $30.00 Per private vehicle, $25.00 for each snowmobile or motorcycle
7-Day Park Pass: $15.00 Persons 16 and older entering by foot, bike or skis
Annual Park Pass: $60.00 (Access to Yellowstone only)
Interagency Annual Pass: $80.00 (Provides access to all National Parks)
Interagency Senior Pass: $10.00 (Lifetime pass. Available for U.S. citizens 62 and older)
Interagency Access Pass: FREE (U.S. citizens who are blind or permanently disabled)
Commercial Visitors: Sedan: 1-6 passengers, $25 (plus $15 a person)
Commercial Visitors: Van: 7-15 passengers, $125 (no per person fee)
Commercial Visitors: Minibus: 16-25 passengers, $200 (no per person fee)
Commercial Visitors: Motorcoach: 26 or more passengers, $300 (no per person fee)
Yellowstone Overview Map

Road construction
- Work may be underway on park roads. Check the park newspaper or website for road delays/denisons and for seasonal dates of services and facilities.

Winter road closures
- Prior to November 1 to early May most roads are closed. The exception is the road to the North Entrance and Cooke City. It is open all year.

Backcountry use
- Bottles required for backcountry camping and trail maps at ranger stations. Do not use this map for backcountry hiking. There are almost 1,800 miles of trails.
To help minimize the impact of humans on critical bear habitat the park service has set aside 16 bear management areas within Yellowstone that allow bears to interact naturally with their surroundings and with other bears. Each location has specific guidelines so please review them carefully before making plans to visit any of these locations. Park rangers will also provide relevant information on bear activity for the areas you are planning to visit. Trails and campsites may be closed if bear and human encounters become frequent.

1. Antelope BMA Closed March 10 - Nov 10
2. Blacktail BMA Closed March 10 - June 30
3. Clear Creek BMA North Clear Creek North open April 1 - Aug 10, Aug 11 all trails open to off-trail travel
4. Clear Creek BMA South April 1 - July 14 travel allowed between Park Point - Beavard Creek. No off-trail travel
5. Firehole BMA Closed March 10 - Memorial Day (Firehole Freight Rd & Firehole Lake Rd)
   Mary Mountain trail closed from Nez Perce TH to Mary Lake March 10 - June 15
6. Gallatin BMA May 1 - Nov 10 travel on designated trails, off-trail travel prohibited year-round
7. Gneiss Creek BMA Closed March 10 - June 30, July 1 - Nov 10 No off-trail travel
8. Grant Village BMA May 15 - July 14 No off-trail travel, July 15 all campsites and trails open
9. Heart Lake BMA Closed April 1 - June 30
10. Lake Spawn BMA May 15 - July 14 no off-trail travel, July 15 all campsites and trails open
11. Mirror Plateau BMA May 15 - Nov 10 day use only except...July 1 - Aug 14 for overnight camping
12. Pelican Valley BMA Closed April 1 - July 3, July 4 - Nov 10 open for day use only - 9am - 7pm
13. Richard’s Pond BMA Closed March 10 - Memorial Day
   From Memorial Day - Sept 30 Duck Creek to Campanula Creek open to streamside travel
   Campanula Creek is closed Mar 10 - Sept 30
14. Riddle/Solution BMA Closed April 30 - July 14
15. Two Ocean BMA March 10 - July 14/Aug 22 - Nov 10 travel allowed on designated trails only
    July 15 - Aug 21 must obtain permit for off-trail travel
16. Washburn BMA March 10 - July 31 by special permit only, closed Aug 1 - Nov 10
Day Hiking Checklist

☐ Ball Cap or Wide-brimmed Hat
☐ Sunscreen
☐ Sunglasses
☐ Pocket Knife
☐ Insect Repellent
☐ Bear Spray
☐ Basic First-Aid Kit
☐ Map
☐ Compass
☐ Water Bottle or Hydration Bladder
☐ Butane Lighter and/or Matches
☐ High Energy Snacks
☐ Rain Gear
☐ Extra Clothing (Socks, Shirt, Gloves)
☐ Toilet Paper or Tissues

Optional Items

☐ GPS
☐ Multi-tool
☐ Headlamp
☐ Trekking Poles
☐ Duct Tape
☐ Space Blanket or Thermal Bivy
☐ Sandals

Additional Items

☐ _______________________________
☐ _______________________________
☐ _______________________________
☐ _______________________________
☐ _______________________________
☐ _______________________________
# Summer Backpacking Checklist

- Ball Cap or Wide-brimmed Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Pocket Knife
- Insect Repellent
- Bear Spray
- Comprehensive First-Aid Kit
- Map
- Compass
- Water Bottle or Hydration Bladder
- Butane Lighter and/or Matches
- High Energy Snacks
- Freeze-dried Food
- Rain Gear
- Extra Clothing (Socks, Shirts, Gloves)
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Tent or Other Shelter
- Water Filter
- Headlamp
- Stove and Cookware
- Cooking Utensils
- Toilet Paper

## Optional Items

- GPS
- Multi-tool
- Trekking Poles
- Duct Tape
- Space Blanket or Thermal Bivy
- Sandals
- Iodine Tablets
- Camp Towel
- Fire Steel & Fire Tinder

## Additional Items

- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
- ________________________________
**Backcountry Permits**

**Registration/Permit Basic Overview**
- All backpackers are required to camp in designated backcountry campsites.
- You must obtain a backcountry permit in person before you begin any backpacking trip.
- You can apply for a permit no more than two days (48 hours) prior to your trip.
- Advanced reservations are held until 10 am the day of your trip.
- Maximum stay at any backcountry campsite is 1-3 days unless otherwise indicated.
- Campfires are only allowed in established fire pits.
- Some campsites do not allow campfires so check with rangers prior to your trip.
- Groups of no more than 4-12 people may occupy a campsite at any given time.
- Create a backup itinerary in case your initial backcountry sites are unavailable.
- Food storage is required at all campsites—both frontcountry and backcountry.

**NEW FEE STRUCTURE**
The park service has announced a new fee structure for the backcountry use permits for overnight backpacking trips within Yellowstone. Between Memorial Day and September 10th backcountry users will pay a per-person, per-night permit fee. Permit fees apply for group members age 9 years and older. Backpackers and boaters will pay a $3.00 per-person per-night fee. The group per-night fee will be capped at $15.00 per-night. Stock parties will pay a $5.00 per-person per-night fee. There is no cap on the group per-night fee.

Backcountry users may purchase an Annual Backcountry Pass for $25.00, exempting them from the per-person, per-night permit fee. Annual Backcountry Passes are valid for the calendar year in which they are purchased. The advance reservation fee remains $25.00 for trips reserved more than 2 days in advance.

For additional inquiries contact the Central Backcountry Office at: (307) 344-2160
Email: yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov

**Yellowstone Backcountry Permit Offices**
Hours: 7 days a week: 8 am-4:30 pm. Call beforehand. Hours change seasonally. (307) 344-2160
Many ranger stations are closed during the winter months. (*) closed in winter.
- Bechler Ranger Station*
- Canyon Ranger Station/Visitor Center*
- Mammoth Visitor Center
- Old Faithful Ranger Station
- Tower Ranger Station*
- South Entrance Ranger Station*
- Grant Village Backcountry Office*
- West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
- Bridge Bay Ranger Station Center*

**Advanced Mail-in Backcountry Use Permit Forms**
The following 2 pages contain the Advanced Mail-in Backcountry Reservation Form. The advanced reservation application process begins on April 1st of each year and the Park Service requires a $25.00/1 non-refundable processing fee (cash, check or money order). Oddly enough, permits that are received before April 1st are processed randomly so it’s best to get them in just after the April 1st deadline when the permits are reviewed in the order in which they are received.
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
BACKCOUNTRY PERMIT RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS

Reservation applications for backcountry permits are only accepted from January 1 to October 31 of each calendar year. Reservations received by March 31 will be processed in random order starting April 1. Reservations received April 1 and later will be processed in the order received.

Fill out the application form. Please print legibly or fill out the form electronically.

Do not submit multiple requests for the same trip - only one application per-party per-trip will be accepted.

If you have a large group which exceeds the maximum number of people allowed at a campsite, you must request an additional site(s) and fill out an additional application. Let us know that you are submitting multiple applications for the same group and we will keep the applications together for processing.

Include $25 pre-payment with your application. Each reservation costs $25 regardless of the number of people or nights in a single trip. Please include only one trip per application. A trip is defined as an itinerary of campites along a trail from the entry trailhead to the exit trailhead. If you return to the road and travel to another entry trailhead, this constitutes a second trip and requires a separate application.

Review your application. Before submitting your reservation application make sure you have:
✓ Reviewed the Backcountry Trip Planner, backcountry use regulations, and reservation policies.
✓ Reviewed the restrictions for each campsite you are requesting. (open/closed dates, party size limits, etc.)
✓ Consulted a topographic map or guidebook and planned for daily hiking/boating distances, river fords and elevation changes.
✓ Made a copy of your completed application for your records.

Submit your reservation application by mail or fax. Requests are not accepted by e-mail or telephone. Reservations are accepted in person once backcountry offices are open for the season.

Be patient. You will receive a confirmation notice by mail or e-mail as soon as your application is processed. If we are unable to process your request we will call you to discuss alternate options. Please allow up to two weeks to receive your confirmation letter during April. Please refrain from calling to check on your status so that we can process all applications more quickly.

Pick up your permit. Your confirmation letter is not a backcountry permit. Bring your confirmation letter and permit worksheet with you to a backcountry permit office to obtain your actual permit. Please thoroughly read your confirmation letter for details on where and when you can pick up your backcountry permit.

Additional Information

You may stay up to 3 consecutive nights at any one campsite unless otherwise noted in the campsite listings found in the Backcountry Trip Planner.

Slough Creek (campsites 251-258): only three nights total along Slough Creek are allowed per permit from June 15-September 15. Remember: only one member of your party may submit an application.

Shoshone Lake: the following campites cannot be reserved for camping dates prior to the dates listed.
Campites 8Q1, 8R2, and 8S5: June 20 Campsites 8T3 and 8T5: July 10 Campsites 8Q6 and 8Q7: July 15
The remaining campites on Shoshone Lake cannot be reserved for camping dates prior to June 10.

Yellowstone Lake: many sites on the lake require that boats be removed completely from the water. If you select one of these sites, be sure your boat can meet this requirement. Refer to the campsite listing for details.

Yellowstone Lake Dock Sites (7L5, 7L6, 7M4): Only one boat per party is permitted at the dock. Additional boats must be removed completely from the water or anchored off-shore. Shore sites at 7M4 may not be reserved for camping dates prior to July 1.

Bechler: campsites in Bechler (starting with 9) cannot be reserved for camping dates prior to July 10.

Please refer to the Backcountry Trip Planner for additional campites and trails which may be inaccessible or closed in the early part of the season.
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
BACKCOUNTRY PERMIT RESERVATION APPLICATION

Trip Leader & Contact Information
NAME __________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE ______ ZIP ______
COUNTRY __________________________
DAYTIME PHONE(S) __________________________
E-MAIL __________________________

Tell Us About Your Group
# OF PEOPLE _______ # OF BOATS _______ # STOCK _______

Select Your Method of Travel
☐ Foot ☐ Motor Boat ☐ Drop-Off by Stock
☐ Horse ☐ Non-Motor Boat ☐ Drop-Off by Boat
☐ Llama ☐ Sailboat

Check If Applicable
☐ We will be using the boat shuttle on Yellowstone Lake
Yellowstone Lake Dock Sites: we will camp on ☐ boat ☐ shore
☐ Large Group with multiple applications: list group name (to the left)
and total number of applications to have them considered together:

IS THIS AN ORGANIZED OR GUIDED TRIP: ☐ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, PLEASE LIST GROUP AFFILIATION/NAME:

REQUESTED ITINERARY  List dates for the night(s) you want the campsite. Use additional sheets if necessary. Please indicate your campsite choices using the three digit alphanumeric codes. Use additional pages if necessary. If we have complications reserving your trip, we prefer to expedite the booking over the phone. You will receive a reservation confirmation notice by mail or e-mail.

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<tr>
<th>First Choice:</th>
<th>Second Choice:</th>
<th>Third Choice:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Night 1</td>
<td>Date (month/day)</td>
<td>Campsite</td>
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<td>Night 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Night 8</td>
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Start Trailhead
End Trailhead

OTHER OPTIONS: In order to secure a trip, are you willing to accept minor changes to your requested itinerary (check all that apply):
☐ similar/nearby campsites ☐ reverse route ☐ alternate start dates (what date can you start: _______)

PAYMENT INFORMATION: $25.00 US Funds Payments are non-refundable. Select your payment method:
☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card Number __________________________ Expiration Date (mm/yy) __________

Name on Card __________________________ Signature __________________________

MAIL TO:
Central Backcountry Office
P.O. BOX 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

FAX TO: (307) 344-2166
For Information Only:
(307) 344-2160 or yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov

Reservation applications are only accepted from January 1 to October 31 of each calendar year by mail or fax (do not e-mail). Reservations received by March 31 will be processed in random order starting April 1. Reservations received April 1 and later will be processed in the order received. Pre-payment must accompany the application. Denied requests will not incur a charge. Make check payable to National Park Service.