

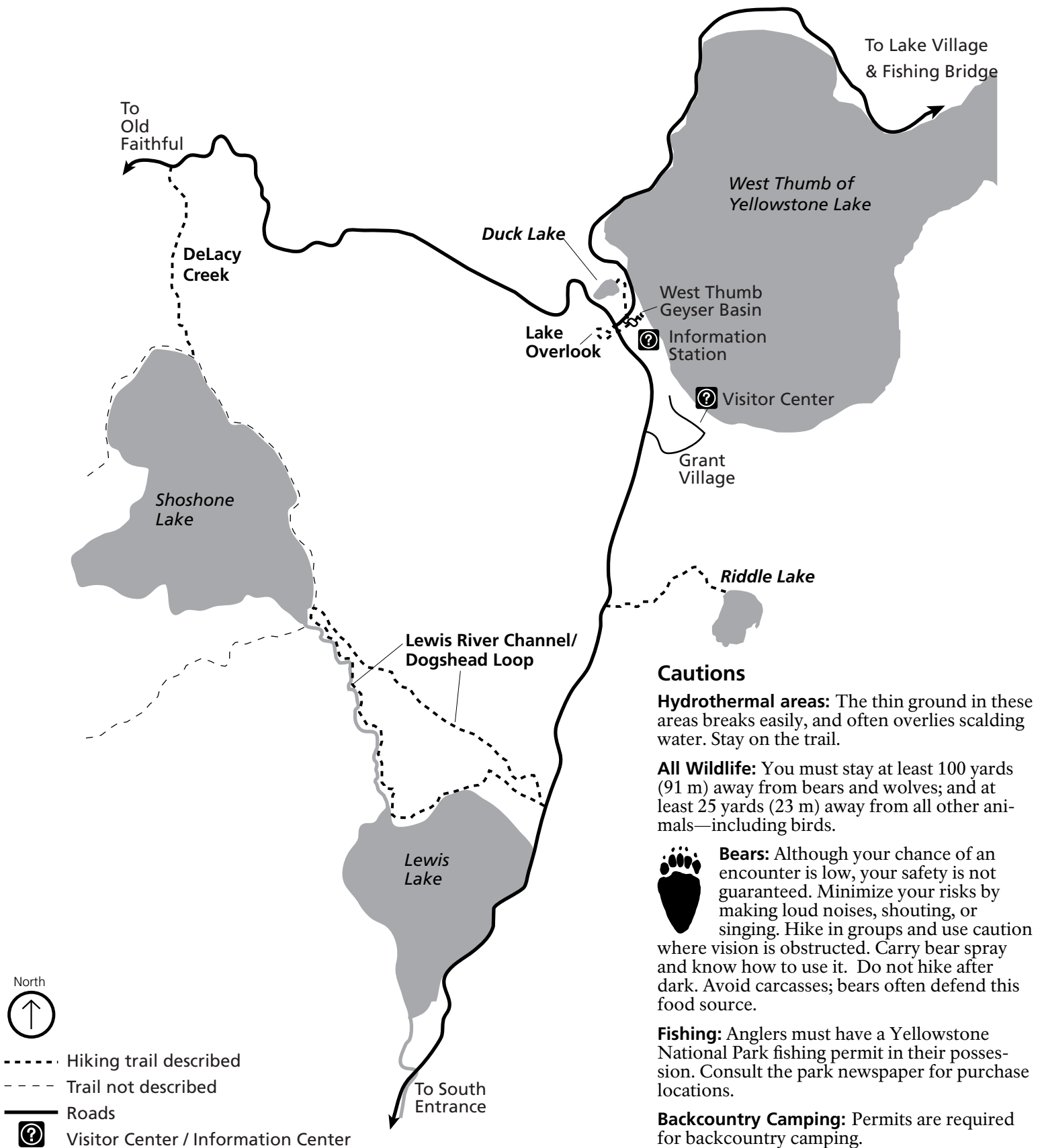
Grant & West Thumb Day Hikes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Yellowstone National Park



Welcome to the Grant Village and West Thumb Areas

The lakes in this area have attracted humans for centuries—and provide excellent habitat for wildlife. We invite you to spend a few hours hiking the area’s scenic trails. Always carry rain gear, extra food and water, and other emergency equipment when venturing into the backcountry. Be sure to obtain current trail condition and bear activity information at the Grant Village backcountry office.



West Thumb Geyser Basin



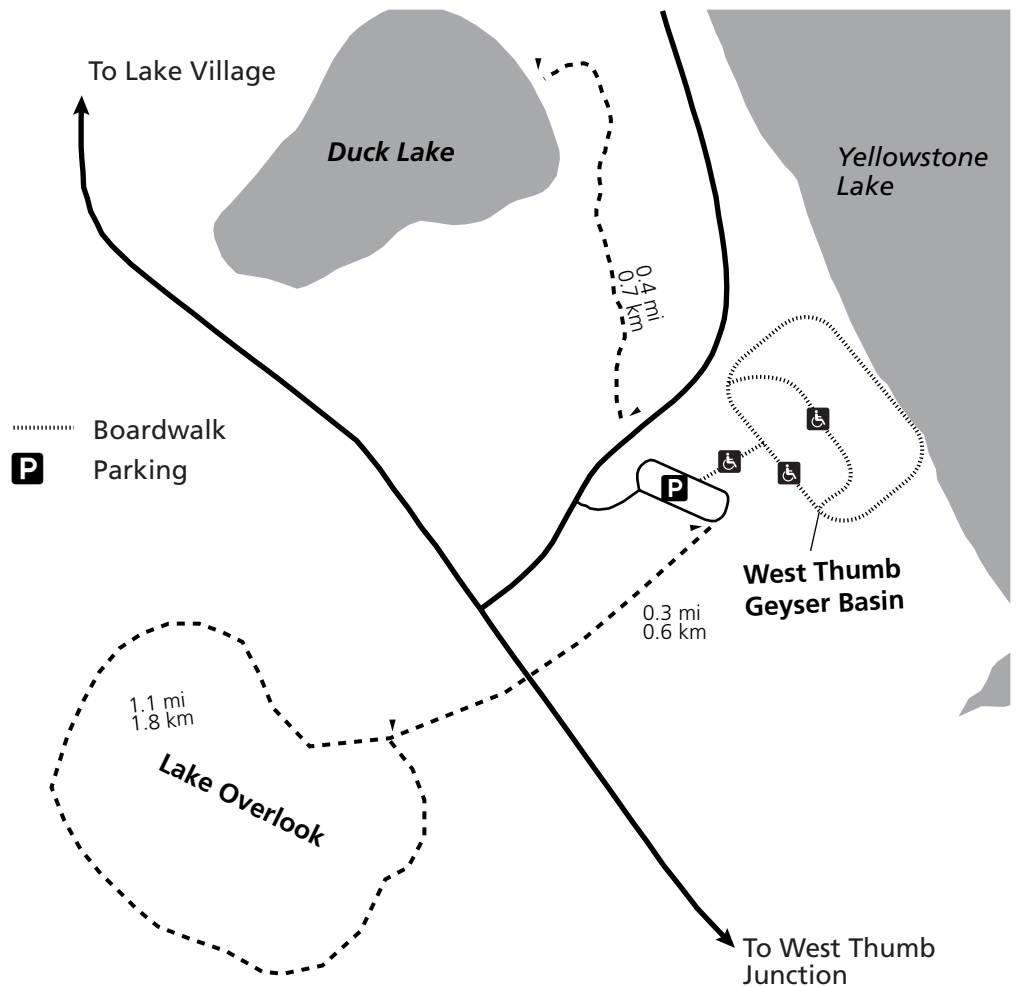
Distance, round trip:
0.6 mile (1 km)

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Difficulty: easy boardwalk trail; wheelchair accessible with assistance on slopes.

Trailhead: West Thumb Geyser Basin parking area, ¼ mile north of West Thumb Junction.

Stroll through a geyser basin of colorful hot springs and dormant lakeshore geysers situated on the scenic shores of Yellowstone Lake. Obtain a West Thumb Area Trail Guide for further detail.



Duck Lake

Distance, round trip: 0.8 mile (1.4 km)

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Trailhead: At the end of the West Thumb Geyser Basin parking area, on the right.

Climb a small hill for a view of Duck and Yellowstone lakes and the expanse of the 1988 fires that swept through this area. Trail descends to shore of Duck Lake.

Lake Overlook

Distance, loop: 1.5 miles (2.4 km)

Estimated time: 1 hour

Difficulty: moderately strenuous (400 foot elevation gain near overlook)

Trailhead: On right as you enter West Thumb Geyser Basin parking area.

Hike to a high mountain meadow for a commanding view of the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake and the distant Absaroka Mountains. The loop trail ascends steeply, passing backcountry thermal features, then gradually descends through meadows & forest.

Caution: Thermal activity along trail; stay on the designated trail and abide by detour signs at all times.

Shoshone Lake (via DeLacy Creek)

Distance, round trip: 5.8 miles (9.4 km)

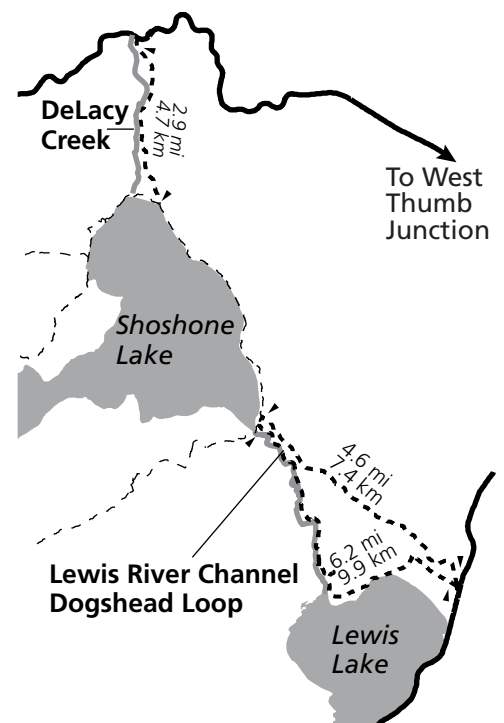
Estimated time: 2–3 hours

Difficulty: easy

Trailhead: 8.8 miles (14 km) west of West Thumb Junction.

Hike along a forest's edge and through open meadows to the shores of Yellowstone's largest backcountry lake. Look for sandhill cranes in meadows, moose near shore, and water birds on and near the lake.

Beyond here the trail continues into Yellowstone's vast backcountry. The dayhike stops here; return by the same route.



Lewis River Channel/ Dogshead Loop

Distance, loop : 10.8 miles (17.3 km)

Estimated time: 5–8 hours

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Trailhead: Approximately 5 miles (8 km) south of the Grant Village intersection, just north of Lewis Lake on the west side of the road.

This trail gives you a feel for Yellowstone's backcountry. Hike through forest to the colorful waters of the Lewis River Channel. Look for eagles and osprey fishing for trout in the shallow waters. Continue on to Shoshone Lake and return on the forested Dogshead Trail or return by the same route.

Riddle Lake

Distance, round trip: 4.8 miles (7.6 km)

Estimated time: 2–3 hours

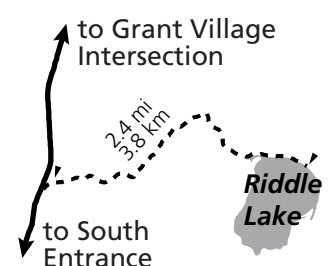
Difficulty: easy

Trailhead: Approximately 3 miles (5 km) south of the Grant Village intersection, just south of the Continental Divide sign.

Crossing the Continental Divide, hike through small mountain meadows and forests to the shores of a picturesque little lake. Look for elk in the meadows and for birds near the lake.



Bear Management Area: Trail closed until July 15. Opening may be later if trumpeter swans are nesting on the lake



For more information

www.nps.gov/yell

Visitor centers have a free day hike handout for each major area of the park. A "Day Hike Sampler," with a hike or two per area, is also available along with several guides for trails throughout the park.