

Yellowstone National Park



Second Century of Service

On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. For a century the NPS has cared for and protected wildlife, lands, waterways, accomplishments, lessons, and stories belonging to the citizens of the United States of America. And we are ready to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.

Find Your Park

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation have launched **Find Your Park**, a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and setting the stage for the next 100 years. First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush will serve as honorary co-chairs to promote the celebration of the 2016 centennial and to encourage people to connect with their favorite parks and public lands.

Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park is more than just a place—it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide. Further, Find Your Park encourages people to find their own personal connections within the network of national parks and public lands.

For a head start, stop by the newly-renovated Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs. The map there will help you find one of the 407 national parks, monuments, historic sites, or recreation areas close to your home. Each of these special places preserves and protects national treasures, and they are all waiting for you to visit and enjoy.

As co-chairs, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush will engage young Americans, connecting them with parks and National Park Service programs, and encouraging them to share Find Your Park stories and experiences.

The campaign to connect national parks with the next generation comes at a critical time. According to a study conducted by Hall & Partners on behalf of the National Park Foundation, while approximately 80% of Americans have heard of the

“There is something for everyone in our 407 national parks, whether it is the breathtaking landscapes or the historical and cultural sites that tell the story of our country, . . . As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, this is a perfect time for all Americans—especially young people—to Find Your Park, from neighborhood parks to national parks and all public lands in between.”

—Secretary Sally Jewell

National Park Service, only 38% are at all familiar with the organization and all that they do.

Centennial Ambassadors Bill Nye (scientist), Bella Thorne (TV and film actress), Roselyn Sanchez (TV and film actress), Terrence J. (TV personality), and Mary Lambert (singer/songwriter and LGBT advocate) are helping to reach the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. To inspire participation in the Find Your Park movement, each of them has filmed and shared their own personal national park story at different places across the country.

At the heart of this engagement effort is the public invitation to share park experiences and memories at **FindYourPark.com**, which will feature an interactive gallery of inspirational stories from the general public, National Park Service employees, and celebrities. Content will be socialized with #FindYourPark. Also on FindYourPark.com is a searchable list of ideas for ways to find your park, including in-park and digital activities.



Partnerships Build a Brighter Future



Yellowstone Conservation Corps participants will be one of the groups supported by the youth campus.



Yellowstone's official fundraising partner, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, is celebrating the NPS Centennial with a major fundraising campaign. Through the campaign, Yellowstone Park Foundation is raising funds to support three signature projects in Yellowstone: rehabilitation or reconstruction of the park's Youth Education campus,

rehabilitation of Overlooks & Trails at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, and visitor safety and traffic improvements at the Gardiner Gateway to Yellowstone.

Yellowstone fascinates visitors of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. When someone sees a geyser, passes a bison, or walks through miles and miles of wilderness with no civilization in sight, the connection can last a lifetime. These experiences can have an especially profound effect on youth.

Providing these experiences is how we can inspire a new generation of stewards for tomorrow. The more connections we encourage between young people and nature, the more likely it is that Yellowstone will be preserved forever.

Yellowstone Youth Campus

Yellowstone's in-park youth education programs already offer a wide variety of effective, hands-on opportunities for youth. We want increase the number of young people who can have a unique relationship with Yellowstone, in a place designed just for them.

A new Yellowstone Youth Campus will provide a setting for exemplary, multi-day environmental programs that complement national and state education standards. These experiential programs offer participants an unparalleled opportunity to study and research the natural world in a residential setting; using all of Yellowstone as a living

Laboratory. Plans for this initiative include:

- a fully ADA accessible campus
- dormitory space for up to 90 youth
- new, flexible, common spaces and learning areas to accommodate multiple programs, groups, and activities at the same time.
- An ecologically sensitive footprint that protects park resources, and encourages responsible interaction with the environment; and
- Use of environmentally sustainable materials in order to preserve park resources.

The expanded capacity will allow us to welcome even more young people into the park for day and overnight trips.

Overlooks & Trails at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River

Early park architects and engineers were challenged with creating tourist facilities in concert with nature, through the use of local materials such as stones and logs, known today as "rustic-style architecture." As a result, ten overlooks and five miles of connecting pathways were etched into the rims of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River in the 1930s in rustic style architecture.

Over time, the harsh Yellowstone weather, erosion, and visitation have taken their toll, and several of these magnificent areas might close. Three overlooks have been restored, seven remaining overlooks—two at Uncle Tom's Overlook, the Brink of the Upper Falls, the Brink of the Lower Falls, Inspiration Point, Red Rock Point, and Crystal Falls—and connecting trails are in need of significant rehabilitation or replacement. Restoration of these overlooks will include:

- Creating safe, accessible viewing areas with new educational exhibits
- Using rustic architecture and natural materials to secure the structures to the spires and canyon cliff
- Connecting the historic overlooks along the North and South rims with new walkways
- Rerouting trails away from dangerous areas with stone and boulder barriers.

Gardiner Gateway

The Gardiner Gateway Project is a partnership between local, state and federal agencies working to restore and enhance the original and only year-round entrance to Yellowstone—and the nation's first gateway community—Gardiner, Montana.

When completed, the project will provide visitors and residents vital amenities such as walkways, a welcome center including public restrooms, an amphitheater at Arch Park and reconstruction of the historic depot. Increased infrastructure in Gardiner also provides opportunities for enhanced education experiences showcasing the history and richness of the community and the region.

The project will be completed in several phases over the next three years. Phase One began in spring of 2015 and contains portions of Park Street, Highway 89, Arch Park, and the area around the Roosevelt Arch. Plans include:

- Universally accessible pedestrian amenities and visitor parking will provide visitors safe access between the Arch, Arch Park, and Downtown Gardiner businesses.
- The Roosevelt Arch bypass road will help alleviate traffic congestion and safety issues around the Arch.
- Arch Park and the Roosevelt Stage are designed to highlight the architectural elements of the Roosevelt Arch.
- The Gardiner, Montana Welcome Center will offer visitor information, public restrooms, and historical interpretation of the nation's first gateway community.
- The Pocket Park is designed to be a pedestrian viewing and interpretation area about the Roosevelt Arch.



Roosevelt Arch at the North Entrance in Gardiner, Montana, has welcomed generations of visitors into the park.



COURTESY MARC VANDER MAAS

Albright Visitor Center: Honoring a Legacy of Preservation

This spring, the newly renovated Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs will open to the public. For 30 years before the creation of the National Park Service, the park was protected by the United States Army Cavalry. During their administration, they constructed Fort Yellowstone.

Most of the buildings constructed during the Army era still stand and are used as park headquarters. This historic structure was built in 1909 as living quarters for the bachelor officers of the cavalry. Later, it served as a museum, an archive, and even post office, before becoming the Albright Visitor Center in 1979.

Horace M. Albright helped to found the National Park Service in 1916. He was the first National Park Service Superintendent of Yellowstone (1919–1929), then went on to become the second Director of the National Park Service. He expanded national park areas, particularly in the eastern United States and oversaw the inclusion of national monuments and military parks into the National Park System. Albright helped develop national policies and practices of preservation that guide the service to this day.

Better than ever

Over the last two years, the beautiful stone building now known as the Albright Visitor Center received a full interior renovation. Windows, doors, and fireplaces preserve the historic character but new exhibits help orient you to Yellowstone’s natural and cultural treasures, and provide information for a safe and enjoyable visit by visitors of all abilities.

Located near Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces, you have an opportunity to learn about these active hot springs and how and why they differ from other thermal features in the park.

Thanks to a generous grant from the park’s official education partner, the Yellowstone Association, exhibits in the Albright Visitor Center illustrate the relationships of Yellowstone wildlife to each

other and their home—this magnificent mountain landscape. You can compare your stance to the full height of a bull bison, touch horns and antlers and learn the difference between them, catch a glimpse of the vast northern range—where wildlife sightings are common—and learn how to safely view wildlife.

People have been drawn to Yellowstone’s volcanic landscape, filled with thermal features and wildlife, for thousands of years. Learn about Yellowstone’s rich cultural heritage, the struggles that took place here, the establishment of the world’s first national park in 1872 and the immense challenges that followed. Exhibits take you through the eventual 1886 arrival of the United States Army and the 1916 establishment of the National Park Service.

Visitor services

An orientation area with interactive displays offers enhanced trip planning information and park rangers give educational talks and tours throughout the year. Backcountry camping, boating, and fishing permits are available downstairs in the Mammoth Backcountry Office.



Cavalry soldiers conduct drills on the parade ground outside the bachelor officer’s quarters in 1910, shortly after the building was constructed.



Walls were stripped down to original masonry, stabilized, insulated, and refinished. New exhibits were designed to highlight museum collection items.



Yellowstone Essentials

Yellowstone encompasses more than 2.2 million acres, most of it beyond the reach of roads. One could take an entire lifetime to experience the park—and you would still never see it all. Since most visitors don't have an entire lifetime, here are some suggestions for planning your trip.

Top 5 sites to see:

1. Old Faithful Geysir
2. Artist Point at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River
3. Yellowstone Lake
4. Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces
5. Hayden or Lamar valley

Only one day here?

See the most with one-day driving tours:

- Drive to the Old Faithful area and walk around the geyser basin; drive to the Canyon area—stop at several overlooks and walk along the rim.
- Add Hayden Valley to the above route—especially at the beginning or end of the day—to look for some of the park's large animals.
- Visit the Upper Geyser Basin; drive to Fountain Paint Pot to view mudpots; drive to Canyon and visit Artist Point. End your day at Fishing Bridge Museum on the shore of Yellowstone Lake.
- Visit Old Faithful and one other hydrothermal area, such as Norris, West Thumb, or Mammoth.
- Visit lesser-known features such as Artists Paintpots south of Norris, Roaring Mountain north of Norris, Terrace Springs near Madison Junction, Firehole Lake Drive in the Lower Geyser Basin, or Natural Bridge near Bridge Bay.



A raven's perspective on Old Faithful shows the web of runoff channels that connect the world's most famous geyser to the hydrothermal ecosystem.



Stunning views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River are abundant along the rim trails.

Top 5 dayhikes:

1. Mount Washburn, *north of Canyon*
2. Beaver Ponds, *at Mammoth Hot Springs*
3. Lonestar Geyser, *near Old Faithful*
4. Fairy Falls, *north of Old Faithful*
5. Storm Point, *east of Fishing Bridge*

- For a break from the road, consider one or two moderate day hikes. Check out our Dayhike Sampler or one of the eight area dayhike brochures available at any visitor center or ranger station.
- View a special exhibit or take a tour at the Heritage and Research Center, a state-of-the-art facility located just beyond the North Entrance in Gardiner, Montana. It is home to Yellowstone's museum collection, archives, research library, archeology lab, and herbarium.

Two or more days?

- Explore one area of the park in depth.
- Explore one theme, such as geology, in depth. For example, visit Mammoth Hot Springs to see travertine formations and view the sedimentary layers of Mount Everts, drive through glaciated terrain to Tower Fall or the Lamar Valley, then climb Mount Washburn to view the Yellowstone Caldera and evidence of glaciers.
- Plan an overnight trip into Yellowstone's backcountry. Rangers at park backcountry offices can help you find a site, get a permit, share information about trail conditions, and help make sure that you are equipped and informed for a safer experience.

Truly short on time?

- Explore the terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs.
- Take a stroll through Yellowstone's military past with a walking tour of Historic Fort Yellowstone.
- Visit Lamar Valley to look for wildlife, especially at the beginning or end of the day.

- Consider taking a hike. Many areas of the park have short or moderate day hikes. Consult a "Dayhike Sampler," available at visitor centers. Be sure to ask for updates on area wildlife closures.
- Relax with the amazing views from the Lake Hotel Sun Room, and have dinner in the newly-renovated formal dining room
- Attend a ranger talk. From 15-minute presentations to 2-hour tours, programs are available throughout the park. See the Ranger Program supplement for times and locations.
- Visit the Museum of the National Park Ranger at Norris. The museum is staffed by retired park rangers who volunteer their time and share their wealth of experience
- Tour the Upper Geyser Basin (Old Faithful, Biscuit Basin, Black Sand Basin).
- Get the most out of your visit with a self-guided tour brochure found at visitor centers, and in boxes along boardwalk trails. Guides are available for many thermal areas, as well as Fort Yellowstone, and the Old Faithful Historic District.
- Visit some less well-known features, such as Terrace Spring near Madison Junction.
- View some of the cascades and waterfalls, like Rustic Falls near the Golden Gate, or Firehole Falls along the Firehole Canyon Drive.
- Take a five-mile scenic drive, slightly off the beaten path, on the (one-way, dirt) Blacktail Plateau Drive.
- **Make plans to visit again soon!**

Top 5 thermal areas:

1. Upper Geyser Basin
2. Midway Geyser Basin
3. Norris Geyser Basin
4. West Thumb Geyser Basin
5. Mammoth Hot Springs