

# Yellowstone

## Park Facts

Yellowstone National Park  
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### Why Yellowstone Is So Special & Famous

- ◆ Established March 1, 1872, Yellowstone is the first and oldest national park.
- ◆ It is the second largest national park in the contiguous 48 United States; Death Valley National Park is larger.
- ◆ Yellowstone is one of the largest active volcanoes in the world.
- ◆ The volcano is the source of heat creating the largest concentration of hydrothermal features in the world.
- ◆ Hundreds of thermophile species (heat-loving microorganisms) thrive in the hydrothermal waters; most have not yet been described by science.
- ◆ The spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River features hydrothermally-altered geology, brilliant colors, and inspiring vistas.
- ◆ Within the Grand Canyon is the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River; at 308 feet, it is one of the highest waterfalls in North America.
- ◆ Yellowstone Lake is the largest high-altitude lake in North America.
- ◆ More than 2,400 miles of streams flow through Yellowstone, some of which provide the best and most challenging fly-fishing in the world.
- ◆ With the restoration of the gray wolf in 1995, Yellowstone now contains all the large mammal species known to be present when European Americans arrived.
- ◆ Yellowstone protects one of the largest grizzly bear populations in the 48 contiguous states.
- ◆ It is the only place in the world where wild bison (buffalo) have survived continuously since primitive times.
- ◆ Yellowstone is home to one of the largest concentrations of elk in the world.
- ◆ The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—with Yellowstone National Park at its core—comprises one of the largest intact temperate-zone ecosystems on Earth
- ◆ Twenty-six tribes are historically associated with Yellowstone National Park; several trace their origin to hydrothermal features in the park.
- ◆ More than 2 dozen sites, landmarks, and districts in Yellowstone National Park are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### General

World's First National Park  
A designated World Heritage Site & Biosphere Reserve  
Area: approximately 3,472 square miles or 2,221,766 acres  
63 air miles north to south  
54 air miles east to west  
96% of the park is in Wyoming;  
3% in Montana; 1% in Idaho  
Highest Point: 11,358 ft. (Eagle Peak)  
Lowest Point: 5,282 ft. (Reese Creek)

Larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined  
Approximately 5% of park is covered by water; 15% is meadow and grassland; and 80% is forest  
Precipitation ranges from 10 inches at the north boundary to 80 inches in the southwest corner  
Temperatures (average) range from 9°F in January to 80°F in July at Mammoth Hot Springs  
Record High: 99°F (Mammoth 2002)  
Record Low: -66°F (West Entrance, Riverside Station, 1933)

<b>Geology</b>	<p>1,000–3,000 earthquakes annually</p> <p>Approximately 10,000 hydrothermal features</p> <p>More than 300 geysers</p> <p>One of the world’s largest calderas, measuring 45 by 30 miles</p>	<p>Thousands of petrified trees in northern Yellowstone</p> <p>Approximately 290 waterfalls, 15 ft. or higher, flowing year-round</p> <p>Tallest waterfall in the front country: Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, 308 ft.</p>
<b>Yellowstone Lake</b>	<p>131.7 square miles of surface area</p> <p>141 miles of shoreline</p> <p>20 miles north to south</p>	<p>14 miles east to west</p> <p>Average depth: 140 feet</p> <p>Maximum depth: approximately 410 feet</p>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>67 species of mammals, including:            7 species of native ungulates            2 species of bears</p> <p>322 recorded species of birds (148 nesting species)</p> <p>16 species of fish (5 non-native)</p> <p>6 species of reptiles</p> <p>4 species of amphibians</p>	<p>Threatened: Canada lynx</p> <p>Endangered: the gray wolf population in Yellowstone was removed from the federal list of endangered species and then put back on during 2008; as of April 1, 2009, its status is undetermined.</p>
<b>Vegetation</b>	<p>7 species of conifers</p> <p>Approximately 80% of forest comprised of lodgepole pine</p> <p>Approximately 1500 species of native vascular plants</p> <p>More than 210 species of exotic (non-native) plants</p>	<p>Approx. 186 species of lichens</p> <p>At least 406 species of thermophiles (only 1% of hydrothermal areas inventoried)</p>
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	<p>Approx. 1,600 documented archeological sites</p> <p>More than 379,000 cultural objects and natural science specimens</p> <p>26 associated Native American tribes</p> <p>More than 300 ethnographic resources (animals, plants, sites)</p>	<p>More than 2 dozen sites, landmarks, and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places</p> <p>1 National Historic Trail</p> <p>Thousands of books, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs and negatives</p>
<b>Roads &amp; Trails</b>	<p>5 park entrances</p> <p>466 miles of roads (310 paved/primary miles)</p> <p>More than 15 miles of boardwalks</p>	<p>Approximately 1,000 miles of backcountry trails</p> <p>92 trailheads</p> <p>301 backcountry campsites</p>
<b>Facilities</b>	<p>9 visitor centers, contact stations, and museums</p> <p>9 hotels/lodges (2,200+ rooms/cabins)</p> <p>7 NPS-operated campgrounds (450+ sites)</p> <p>5 concession-operated campgrounds (1,700+ sites)</p>	<p>1,500+ buildings (NPS and concessions)</p> <p>52 picnic areas</p> <p>1 marina</p> <p>13 self-guiding trails</p>
<b>Employees</b>	<p>During the peak summer season:          Approximately 800 National Park Service employees          (about 400 year-round)</p> <p>Approximately 3,500 concession employees</p>	
<b>Visitation</b>	<p>2008: 3,675,379 visits to the park</p> <p>2008–2009 winter recreational visits: 86,793</p>	