

# Yellowstone

## Day Hikes

### In the Grant Village & West Thumb Areas

Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone, WY 82190  
www.nps.gov/yell



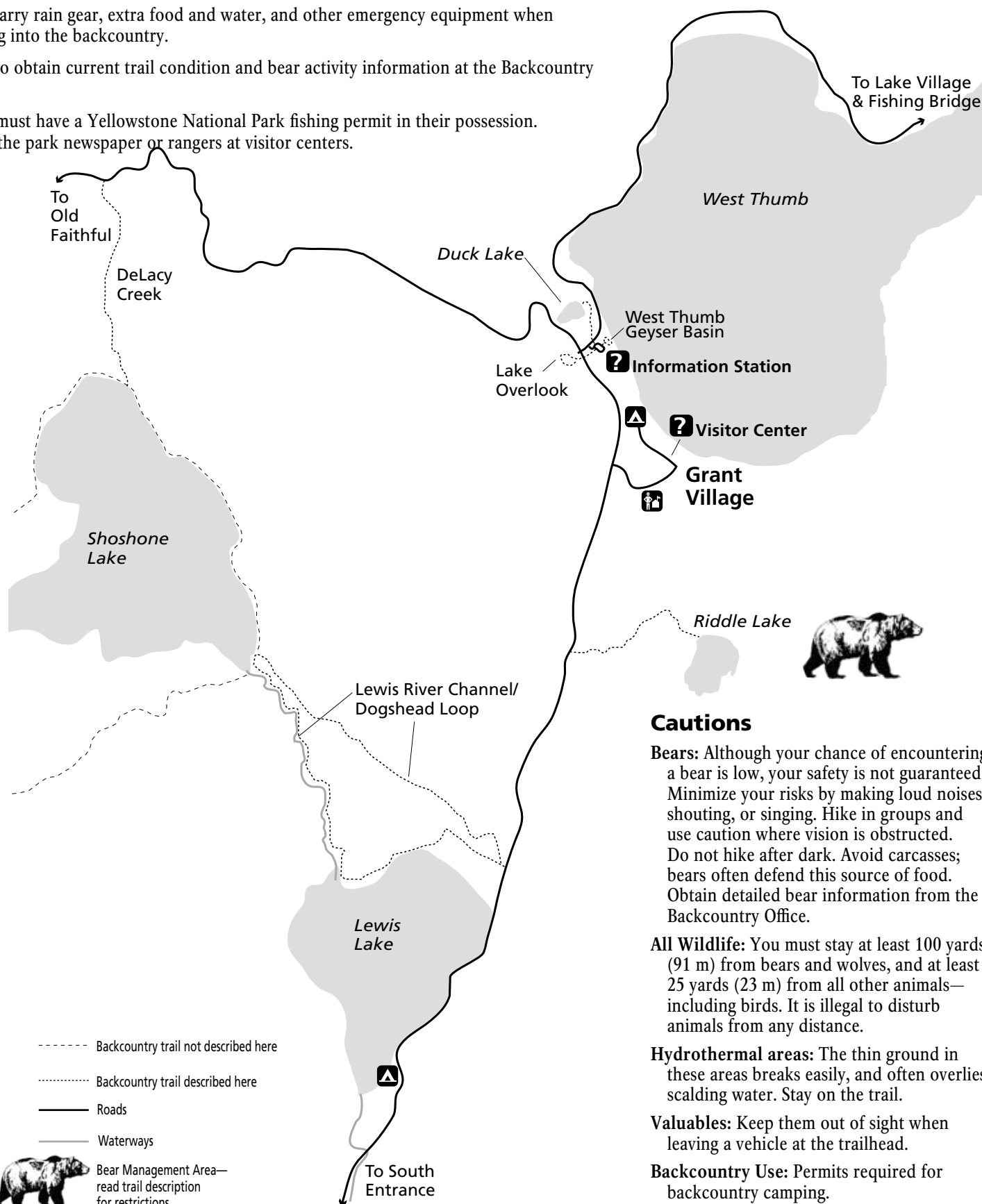
#### Welcome to the Grant Village and West Thumb Areas

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 Backcountry Office.

Anglers must have a Yellowstone National Park fishing permit in their possession. Consult the park newspaper or rangers at visitor centers.



- Backcountry trail not described here
- ..... Backcountry trail described here
- Roads
- Waterways



Bear Management Area—  
read trail description  
for restrictions

#### Cautions

**Bears:** Although your chance of encountering a bear is low, your safety is not guaranteed. Minimize your risks by making loud noises, shouting, or singing. Hike in groups and use caution where vision is obstructed. Do not hike after dark. Avoid carcasses; bears often defend this source of food. Obtain detailed bear information from the Backcountry Office.

**All Wildlife:** You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves, and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals—including birds. It is illegal to disturb animals from any distance.

**Hydrothermal areas:** The thin ground in these areas breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water. Stay on the trail.

**Valuables:** Keep them out of sight when leaving a vehicle at the trailhead.

**Backcountry Use:** Permits required for backcountry camping.

## WEST THUMB GEYSER BASIN



### Distance, round trip:

⅓ mile (1 km)

**Estimated time:** 30 minutes

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

**Trailhead:** West Thumb Geysers parking area, ¼ mile north of West Thumb Junction.

Stroll through a geysers basin of colorful hot springs and dormant lakeshore geysers situated on the scenic shores of Yellowstone Lake.

## LAKE OVERLOOK

**Distance, loop:** 2 miles (3 km)

**Estimated time:** 1 hour

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

**Trailhead:** On right as you enter West Thumb Geysers 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.

## DUCK LAKE

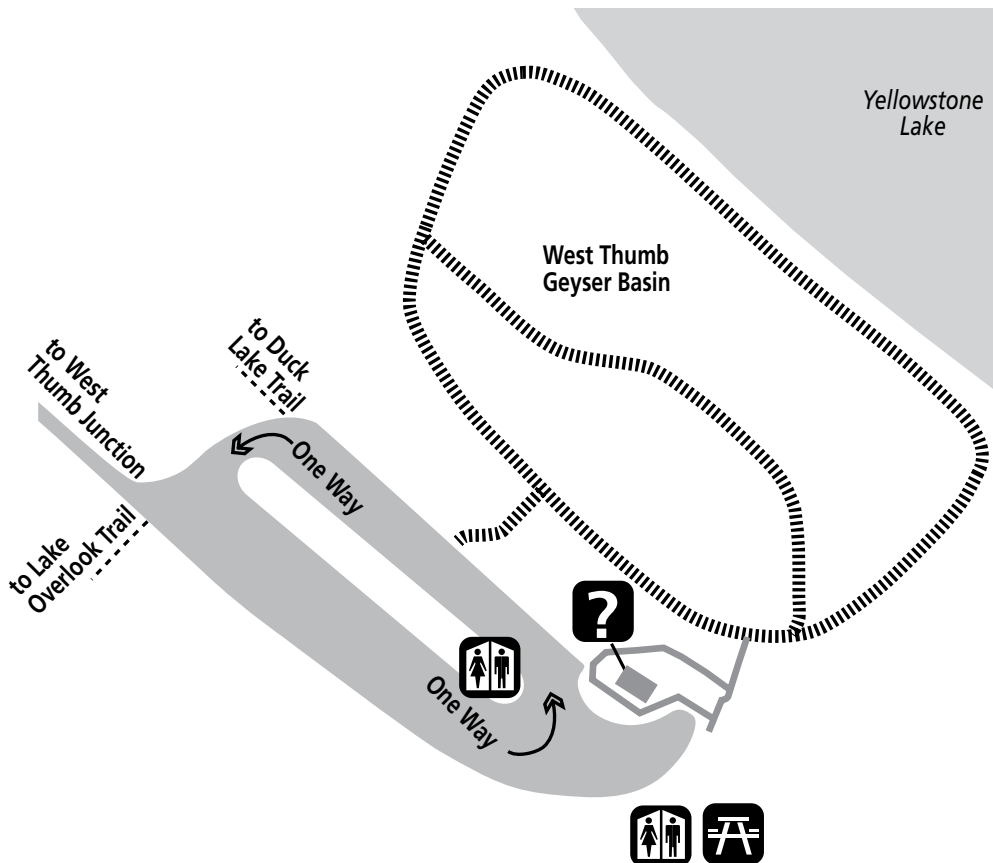
**Distance, round trip:** 1 mile (1.6 km)

**Estimated time:** 30 minutes

**Difficulty:** moderately strenuous

**Trailhead:** At the end of the West Thumb Geysers 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.



## SHOSHONE LAKE (via DeLacy Creek)

**Distance, round trip:** 6 miles (10 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.

## RIDDLE LAKE

**Distance, round trip:** 4.8 miles (7.7 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.**

*After July 15, groups of four or more people are recommended but not required.*

## LEWIS RIVER CHANNEL / DOGSHEAD LOOP

**Distance, round trip:** 7 or 11 miles (11.3 or 17.5 km)

**Estimated time:** 3-8 hours

**Difficulty:** moderately strenuous

**Trailhead:** Approximately 5 miles (8 km) south of the Grant Village intersection, just north of Lewis Lake on west side of 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 ospreys fishing for trout in the shallow waters. Turn around here for the shorter trip or continue on a loop trail that takes you to Shoshone Lake and returns on the forested Dogshead Trail.

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

## For more information

[www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)

[www.yellowstoneassociation.org](http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org)

Each major area of the park has a free hike handout. The Yellowstone Association bookstores also sell a "Dayhike Sampler" with a hike or two per area plus several guides for trails throughout the park. Proceeds from all sales support Yellowstone National Park's interpretive ranger programs.