

PREMIUM EDITION

THE ULTIMATE YELLOWSTONE GUIDE 2026

The world's first national park. Half the planet's geysers, the largest concentration of free-roaming wildlife in the lower 48, and a supervolcano underneath all of it.

"2026 Fact-Checked · Entrances, Road Openings, and Every Major Basin Explained"

1872

WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK

2.2M

ACRES

500+

GEYSERS

310MI

PAVED PARK ROADS

OLD FAITHFUL

GRAND PRISMATIC
SPRING

WOLVES + BISON

BEST HIKES

Table of Contents

This is a free preview of the complete 26-page guide. Below is everything included when you purchase — a few real sample pages follow so you can see the depth and quality before you buy.

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SAMPLE PAGES FROM THE FULL GUIDE

The next 3 pages are pulled directly from the guide, exactly as they appear in the PDF you'd download after purchase — original page numbers included.

3

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone (Artist Point)

A 1,000-foot-deep, brilliantly colored canyon with two waterfalls taller than Niagara

NO PERMIT REQUIRED**EASY TO STRENUOUS****0.5–1.5 mi**

DISTANCE

500 ft

ELEVATION

1–2 hrs

TIME

Late spring–fall

SEASON

TRAIL OVERVIEW

The Yellowstone River has carved a canyon up to 1,200 feet deep through rock colored vivid yellow, orange, and pink by hydrothermally altered minerals — the actual source of the park's name. Artist Point on the South Rim delivers the classic view of the Lower Falls (308 feet, nearly twice the height of Niagara Falls) with no hiking required.

TRAILHEAD + LOGISTICS

Artist Point parking area (South Rim Drive) for the easy overlook.

CROWD STRATEGY

Artist Point is busy but has a large viewing area.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Artist Point at midday delivers the classic postcard shot of the Lower Falls.

LOCAL INSIDER TIP

The North Rim's Brink of the Lower Falls trail gets you to the literal edge where the river drops — a completely different, more visceral perspective than Artist Point's classic distant view.

PERMITS + ACCESS

Backcountry, Fishing + Boating

Every boardwalk, overlook, and day hike in this guide requires nothing beyond your entrance fee. Overnight backcountry travel, fishing, and boating each have their own separate systems.

Activity	Permit?	How to Get It	Cost
All day hikes + boardwalks in this guide	NO	Standard park entry only	Free with entrance fee
Backcountry overnight camping	YES	Recreation.gov, quota system for popular sites	Fee applies
Fishing	YES	Yellowstone-specific fishing permit, separate from any state license	Fee applies, by day/season
Boating (motorized + non-motorized)	YES	Yellowstone-specific boat permit	Fee applies

BEAR SAFETY — NOT OPTIONAL HERE

- › Yellowstone has both grizzly and black bears in genuinely healthy, active populations; carry bear spray on any hike away from the main boardwalks and know how to use it before you need it.
- › Make noise on trail, especially near blind corners or streams where bears may not hear you coming.
- › Store all food, trash, and scented items in a vehicle or provided bear box — never in a tent.
- › Hike in groups where possible; solo hikers are statistically overrepresented in bear encounter incidents.

DAY-BY-DAY

The Perfect 3-Day Yellowstone Itinerary

This itinerary assumes entry via the West Entrance and a counterclockwise loop; adjust based on your actual entrance and lodging location.

D1

Old Faithful + Geyser Basins

Region: **Old Faithful / Midway / Biscuit Basin** Enter via West Entrance

MORNING

- Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin boardwalk loop, timed around a posted eruption.
- Drive to Midway Geyser Basin and hike the Fairy Falls Trail spur to the Grand Prismatic overlook.

AFTERNOON/EVENING

- Mystic Falls Loop from Biscuit Basin if you have energy left.
- Overnight at Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Snow Lodge, or West Yellowstone.

D2

Norris + the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Region: **Norris / Canyon Village** Drive: ~1 hr between stops

MORNING

- Norris Geyser Basin — both the Porcelain and Back Basin loops.

AFTERNOON

- Drive to Canyon Village; Artist Point for the classic Lower Falls view, then Uncle Tom's Trail if you want to get closer.
- North Rim's Brink of the Lower Falls for a different, closer perspective.

EVENING

- Overnight at Canyon Lodge or continue toward Lake/Lamar for tomorrow's early start.

D3

Lamar Valley + Mammoth Hot Springs

Region: **Lamar Valley / Mammoth** Early start essential for wildlife

What's Inside

Built for people actually planning a trip to Yellowstone, not skimming a blog post. Here's everything you get.

26
PAGES

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TRAIL + BASIN PROFILES

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ENTRANCES COVERED

2026
FACT-CHECKED

TRIP-LEVEL PLANNING

- › 2026 entrance opening dates for all five gates, plus the active bridge construction delays this year at the North and Northeast entrances.
- › Why bison jams are unavoidable, and how to plan around them instead of getting frustrated by them.
- › A complete 3-day itinerary covering Old Faithful, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and Lamar Valley wildlife watching.

FULL DEPTH, NOT A SUMMARY

- › **9 full profiles** — Old Faithful, Grand Prismatic Spring, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Mount Washburn, Lamar Valley wildlife watching, and more.
- › Bear safety, backcountry and fishing permits, and boating fees, all verified for 2026.
- › Where to stay (the historic Old Faithful Inn and Lake Hotel), dining, a photography guide, and a "Combining Parks" section for Grand Teton and the wider region.
- › An FAQ and one-page cheat sheet for a fast pre-visit refresher.

BUILT TO USE IN THE FIELD

Every page is designed to be read on your phone at the trailhead, with no cell signal required once it's downloaded.

YOU'VE SEEN THE PREVIEW

Get the Full Yellowstone Guide

Everything in this preview — plus the rest of the guide in full detail. Fact-checked for 2026 and built to use in the field.

\$15

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A premium AdventureFamilyVlog.com guide. Built by Jesse & Heather Gariepy, St. George, Utah.