

Yellowstone

Bechler Day Rides

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



Welcome to Bechler

In "Cascade Corner" you can enjoy trails that follow rivers, lead to waterfalls, and traverse meadows.

Bechler Ranger Station

Check here for trail & stream conditions, bear information, maps and permits. Open 7 days a week in the summer from 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

REQUIRED PERMITS

Permits required for over-night backcountry use and fishing; obtain permits at a ranger station.

WHEN TRAILS OPEN

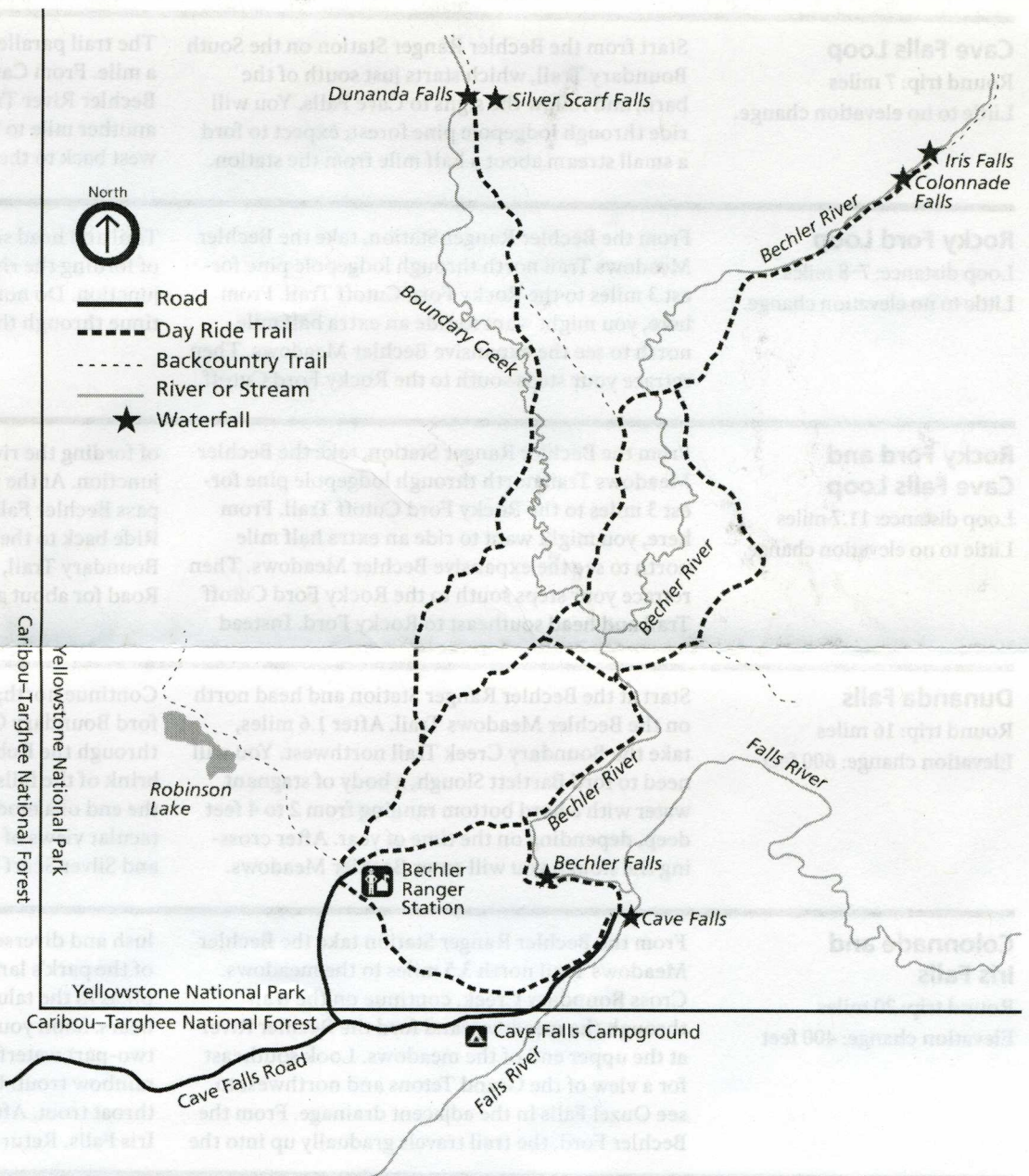
July 1, except Bechler Meadows opens July 15 or later, depending on conditions.

CAUTIONS

Hydrothermal areas: Thin ground in these areas breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water. Stay on trail.

Wildlife: Stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, wolves, and coyotes. It is illegal to disturb animals from any distance.

Tips, rules, and trail descriptions on the other side.



Tips for an Enjoyable Ride

- If your horses are not used to crossing streams, bogs, downfall, or bog bridges, you may have a hard time on these trails.
- Step over logs across the trail when you can rather than going around them.
- Biting insects thrive here. Use a strong repellent

on yourself and your horses.

- Give hikers enough warning to get off the trail; be willing to give right of way to other trail users.
- Consider using saddle hobbles to keep your horses from pawing the ground.

Rules

- Keep horses off roads except at designated trail crossings.
- Travel single file.
- Lead all stock. Loose herding or free-trailing is prohibited.
- Do not use short cuts or cut across switchbacks.
- Clean up after your horses by spreading all horse manure.

- Remove all manure at the trailhead.
- Do not tie stock to live trees for long periods of time.
- Do not damage trees (alive or dead) or vegetation around them.
- Smooth over any scuffing, disturbance, or pawing done by your horses when they are tied up.

Trail Descriptions

Cave Falls Loop

Round trip: 7 miles

Little to no elevation change.

Start from the Bechler Ranger Station on the South Boundary Trail, which starts just south of the barn, and follow the signs to Cave Falls. You will ride through lodgepole pine forest; expect to ford a small stream about a half mile from the station.

The trail parallels the Cave Falls Road for about a mile. From Cave Falls, head upstream on the Bechler River Trail past Bechler Falls and then another mile to the trail junction going southwest back to the ranger station.

Rocky Ford Loop

Loop distance: 7-8 miles

Little to no elevation change.

From the Bechler Ranger Station, take the Bechler Meadows Trail north through lodgepole pine forest 3 miles to the Rocky Ford Cutoff Trail. From here, you might want to ride an extra half mile north to see the expansive Bechler Meadows. Then retrace your steps south to the Rocky Ford Cutoff

Trail and head southeast to Rocky Ford. Instead of fording the river, head south to the Cave Falls junction. Do not go toward Cave Falls but continue through the woods back to the station.

Rocky Ford and Cave Falls Loop

Loop distance: 11.7 miles

Little to no elevation change.

From the Bechler Ranger Station, take the Bechler Meadows Trail north through lodgepole pine forest 3 miles to the Rocky Ford Cutoff Trail. From here, you might want to ride an extra half mile north to see the expansive Bechler Meadows. Then retrace your steps south to the Rocky Ford Cutoff Trail and head southeast to Rocky Ford. Instead

of fording the river, head south to the Cave Falls junction. At the junction, head southeast. You'll pass Bechler Falls before arriving at Cave Falls. Ride back to the ranger station on the South Boundary Trail, which parallels the Cave Falls Road for about a mile.

Dunanda Falls

Round trip: 16 miles

Elevation change: 600 feet

Start at the Bechler Ranger Station and head north on the Bechler Meadows Trail. After 1.6 miles, take the Boundary Creek Trail northwest. You will need to ford Bartlett Slough, a body of stagnant water with a hard bottom ranging from 2 to 4 feet deep, depending on the time of year. After crossing the slough you will enter Bechler Meadows.

Continue north; when you reach campsite 9A1, ford Boundary Creek. Soon the trail will lead through the Robinson fire burn of 1995. The brink of the falls is one mile north of the burn at the end of a moderately steep climb with spectacular views of the Grand Tetons, meadows, and Silver Scarf Falls. Return the same way.

Colonnade and Iris Falls

Round trip: 20 miles

Elevation change: 400 feet

From the Bechler Ranger Station take the Bechler Meadows Trail north 3.5 miles to the meadows. Cross Boundary Creek, continue on the trail through the meadows, and ford the Bechler River at the upper end of the meadows. Look southeast for a view of the Grand Tetons and northwest to see Ouzel Falls in the adjacent drainage. From the Bechler Ford, the trail travels gradually up into the

lush and diverse Bechler Canyon, home to some of the park's largest Douglas-firs. Watch for pikas in the talus slopes, and moose and black bears. Soon you will reach Colonnade Falls, a two-part waterfall. The falls is the barrier for rainbow trout. Upstream you will find only cut-throat trout. After another mile, you will reach Iris Falls. Return the same way.