

Yellowstone National Park



Youth Conservation Corps participants celebrate the rededication of Horace M. Albright Visitor Center with Superintendent Dan Wenk.

100 Years: Let's Celebrate!



Welcome to Yellowstone National Park!

A visit to Yellowstone any time is special, but never more so than on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. Why? Because, Yellowstone National Park and **over 400** other National Park Service sites were established to preserve the priceless natural and cultural heritage of America for you, and for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.

The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016, and everyone can take part in the celebration. Throughout the park this summer, you will find special activities and programs that will connect you with the colorful history and spectacular features of Yellowstone.

The centennial kicks off a second century of service to America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. We invite you to become part of the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.

Find Your Park

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite you to Find Your Park, a public awareness and education campaign to spread the word about the amazing places we manage, the inspirational stories that the national parks tell, our country's natural resources, and our diverse cultural heritage. It's about the National Park Service working in your community through education programs, community assistance projects, and more. Find Your Park encourages people to find their own personal connections within the network of national parks and public lands to connect with history and culture, enjoy nature, and make new discoveries.

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 more than 400 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.



First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush are serving 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. They are engaging young Americans, connecting them with parks and National Park Service programs, and encouraging them to share Find Your Park stories and experiences.

Every Kid in a Park

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

As a part of President Obama's commitment to protect our nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, the Every Kid in the Park initiative allows fourth graders nationwide to go to www.everykidinapark.gov and obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year.

Every Kid in a Park invites children of all backgrounds to discover their public lands and all they offer, including opportunities to be active and spend time with friends and family. As living classrooms, these outdoor places and historic sites also provide hands-on, real-world opportunities to develop critical skills and learn about the natural world.

Partnerships Build a Brighter Future



Youth Conservation Corps participants will be one of the groups supported by a new youth campus.



Yellowstone's official fundraising partner, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, is celebrating the NPS Centennial with a major fundraising campaign. Through the Yellowstone Forever campaign, the Yellowstone Park Foundation is raising funds for park priority projects that include three signature projects in Yellowstone: reconstruction

of the park's Youth Education Campus, restoration of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Overlooks and Trails, 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.

Youth Education Campus

The new Yellowstone Youth Campus is a profound opportunity to enact and embody the conservation principles of the National Park Service. As an environmental learning center, the campus will inspire and empower generations of future stewards and leaders in building a more culturally aware, ecologically responsible, and regenerative future.

These experiential programs offer participants an unparalleled opportunity to study and research the natural world in a residential setting, using all of Yellowstone as an outdoor classroom. The campus will have dormitory space for up to 90 youth and flexible classrooms and common areas to accommodate multiple programs, groups, and activities at the same time.

Through the Living Building Challenge, the project will seek to achieve the highest standard of sustainability. The campus will serve as a new benchmark for National Park Service projects, buildings that embody how we should value our natural resources, both within our national parks and at home.

The Yellowstone Youth Campus will be a new home for immersive youth programs—not just a place for education, but a place that educates.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River Overlooks and Trails

The majestic Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River is one of the most famous and unforgettable areas in the park. Ten overlooks were carved into the rim of the canyon during the 1930s by early park architects, and five miles of trails were constructed to connect these panoramic viewing areas.

Harsh Yellowstone weather, devastating soil erosion, and increased visitation have left this area in need of major repair. Although the work needed is significant, three overlooks have been successfully restored. The 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:

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

This project will provide future visitors with an opportunity to experience the wonders of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River safely, and enjoy the full grandeur of its incredible vistas.



Stunning views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, and the Upper and Lower Falls, are abundant at overlooks and along the rim trails.



The area around the Roosevelt Arch and Arch Park, prior to construction.

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—Gardiner, Montana.

When completed, the project will provide visitors and residents vital amenities such as pedestrian walkways, a welcome center with public restrooms, an amphitheater at Arch Park, and reconstruction of the historic depot.

The project began in the spring of 2015 and will be completed in several phases ending in 2018. Phase One contains portions of Park Street, Highway 89, Arch Park, and the area around the Roosevelt Arch,

and will be complete in August 2016. Upon completion of Phase One, look for the following:

- universally accessible pedestrian amenities and visitor parking to provide visitors safe access between the Arch, Arch Park, and downtown Gardiner businesses;
- the Roosevelt Arch bypass road, designed to alleviate traffic congestion and safety issues around the Arch;
- a new stage for public events at Arch Park;
- the Gardiner, Montana, Welcome Center, offering visitor information, public restrooms, and historical interpretation of the nation's first gateway community.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation has been the park's official fundraising partner since 1996.

Its programs and projects help protect, preserve, and enhance the park's natural and cultural resources, as well as the experience of visitors.

Learn how you can get involved at:

www.ypcf.org

www.facebook.com/YellowstoneParkFoundation
www.twitter.com/YellowstonePF
www.instagram.com/goyellowstone
<https://vimeo.com/yellowstonepf>

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Year at a Glance

Every day in 2016 is a chance to celebrate the NPS Centennial, but here are a few notable highlights:

- **End of March**—Release of Centennial commemorative 3-coin set (the silver coin features Yellowstone's Old Faithful geyser and a bison)
- **April 16–24**—National Park Week
- **Mid-April**—Release of *National Geographic Magazine* featuring the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
- **May 13**—125th Anniversary of the Lake Yellowstone Hotel
- **Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend**—Ranger walks, talks, and evening programs
- **June 21**—Release of the Yellowstone Centennial Pendleton Blanket (Old Faithful)
- **August 25**—An Evening at the Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the NPS Centennial, Gardiner, Montana
- **October 4–6**—13th Biennial Scientific Conference of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Grand Teton National Park

An Evening at the Arch

Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial

Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Arch Park in Gardiner, Montana

Advance tickets required (tickets are free, but limited)

Yellowstone National Park and its partners will host a very special Centennial event to kick off the second century, highlight the importance of public/private partnerships, and recognize the completion of the Gardiner Gateway Project Phase One.

Plans include public programs, musical guests, as well as local, state, and national dignitaries. The event will be broadcast online so anyone can participate from anywhere in the world! For more information, go to www.nps.gov/yell

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. As most people are here for just a short visit, they tend, of course, to want to see the main sights. The result—many people in the same places, at the same times.

In 2015, there were almost 4,100,000 “visits” to the park, up 16.6% from 2014, making it the highest visitation year on record. The increase in visitors brought an increase in demands on park staff, facilities, and resources. Long lines to enter the park, traffic jams, and lack of parking caused frustration for visitors and staff, undoubtedly affecting the visitor experience.

“We are asking visitors to pack their patience for the upcoming summer season, as we expect more record-breaking numbers in 2016, the National Park Service Centennial year,” said Superintendent Dan Wenk. With this in mind, we offer some suggestions for planning your trip. Knowing you can’t see everything, consider spending time at some of the park’s less visited areas, get started early and stay later in the evening, and take a deep breath—you’re in Yellowstone National Park, after all!

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 Canyon and visit Artist Point; drive to Mud Volcano to view mudpots. 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



A raven's perspective on Old Faithful Geyser.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE PARK LODGES

In 2015, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced the designation of the Lake Yellowstone Hotel as a National Historic Landmark hotel. The hotel marks its 125th anniversary in 2016, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Travel conditions:

Please make flexible travel plans. Changes and delays are always possible. Check locally and at www.nps.gov/yell for current road and service information.

Junction, Firehole Lake Drive in the Lower Geyser Basin, or Natural Bridge near Bridge Bay.

- 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.
- 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 and the Old Faithful Historic District.
- 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.

Be prepared to encounter bears

- Be alert
- Make noise
- Carry bear spray
- Hike with three or more people
- Do not run