

## Bicycling in Yellowstone

**BICYCLE TOURING** through Yellowstone National Park can be a rewarding experience although **advance preparation is essential**. There are more than 300 miles of roadway, and the distances between developed areas are long. **Road elevations range from 5,300 ft. to 8,860 ft.** requiring extra time and energy between points of travel. Some notable climbs inside the park are **Craig Pass** (8,261 ft.), **Sylvan Pass** (8,530 ft.), and **Dunraven Pass** (8,859 ft.).

Snow-covered roads and mountain passes prevent bicycling from November through most of April. Cool and cloudy days are typical during the months of May and June. Warm days and cool nights with occasional afternoon thundershowers characterize July and August. September and October generally have clear, cool days; however, occasional early season snowstorms can occur in late September and October. During cool weather, be cautious for icy roads.

## Regulations

- Bicycle riders on public roadways in Yellowstone must obey the same rules and regulations that apply to motorized vehicles.
- Bicycles are not allowed on any park trails or in off-road backcountry areas. Service roads and utility corridors are closed to bikes unless use is expressly permitted.
- Bicycles must exhibit a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the rear during periods of low visibility.
- Riding bicycles abreast on a public roadway is prohibited.
- The maximum number of cyclists traveling in a single cluster may not exceed 15; these clusters must be at least one half mile apart.

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## Camping in Yellowstone

Camping for bicyclists is limited to the developed campgrounds located throughout the park. Campsites are available by reservation (through Xanterra Parks and Resorts) and on a first-come, first-served basis (**see Information**).

The distances separating campgrounds and the fact that the campgrounds typically fill early each day during the peak visitation season will pose logistical problems for the bicycle camper in Yellowstone. A limited number of campsites are reserved for hikers and bicyclists at all park campgrounds with the exception of Slough Creek. **Camping is not available at Old Faithful.** If you are traveling with a group of bicyclists, call Xanterra Parks and Resorts prior to your arrival to check on group campsite availability; not all campgrounds can accommodate groups. If you have access to a vehicle, use it to find a campsite in your destination campground early each day.

Bicyclists camping without a vehicle can use designated hiker/biker sites for \$5 per individual per night. All other vehicle campsites range from \$12 to \$17 per night depending on the campground. Opening and closing dates vary considerably for each campground in the park. Check to make sure that a campground is open if you are planning a spring or fall visit to Yellowstone.

## Repair Services

Repair services and parts are available in the gateway communities of West Yellowstone and Cooke City, Montana. Additional bicycle shops are located in the more distant communities. Rentals are available from several bicycle shops outside the park and at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge (May to September).

## Road Conditions and Safety

**ROAD CONDITION ADVISORY:** Review the map on the opposite side of this brochure for road information. Roads highlighted in **red** are narrow and rough without road shoulders. Consider these poor road conditions when planning your bicycle travel in the park. Roads highlighted in **yellow** have improved road shoulders and are more suited to bicycle riding.

Roads in the park predate today's bicycling popularity. During May and June, the narrow roads with high snowbanks make travel more dangerous, especially in the south-central area of the park. A parkwide road improvement plan is in place but will take many years to complete. The worst sections of road are being repaired first. Road construction activities and closures can be anticipated on some park roadways throughout the summer season.

Heavy traffic, large vehicles, wide mirrors, narrow roads, and erratic driving behavior are potential hazards that contribute to the bicycle-motorist related accidents that occur each year in the park. Wear a helmet and high visibility clothing!

Traffic flow is heaviest from mid-June to mid-September with daily peaks from mid-morning to late afternoon. Roads most heavily used are those that serve the well-known points of interest in the park. Plan accordingly to avoid peak traffic periods and heavily used roadways. Pull over to allow motorists to pass if you are impeding traffic flow. On service roads open to bikes, yield the right-of-way to other users such as hikers or horse riders. Further the interests of all cyclists by staying on designated routes, off foot trails, and out of closed areas.

## Bicycling Routes

Several gravel roads are open to BOTH bicycle and automotive traffic. The Old Gardiner Road and Blacktail Plateau Drive allow two-way bike traffic and one-way auto traffic. These roads are best suited for mountain bikes. Please do not block entrance gates when parking at these locations.

The following routes (shown and numbered in **blue** on the map) are restricted to bicycle and foot travel only. **NOTE: Distances listed are one way.**

### Mammoth Area:

1. The abandoned railroad bed paralleling the Yellowstone River between Gardiner and the park boundary at Reese Creek (5 miles).
2. Mammoth service road beginning at the top of the hill on the Old Gardiner Road above Mammoth, northwest to the telephone station (1.5 miles).
3. Bunsen Peak road (6 miles) and Golden Gate service road between Golden Gate and Joffe Lake (1.5 miles).

### West Entrance Area

4. Riverside trail from entrance to Barnes Road (1.4 miles).

### Old Faithful Area

5. Fountain Freight Road is located 6 miles north of Old Faithful. Mountain bikes recommended. (5.5 miles).
6. Daisy Geyser cut-off to Biscuit Basin.
7. The paved trail in front of the Old Faithful Lodge to Morning Glory Pool (2 miles). Bicycles are not allowed on the unpaved trail continuing beyond Morning Glory Pool to Biscuit Basin.

8. Lone Star Geyser road (just past the Kepler Cascades' pullout) from the Grand Loop Road to Lone Star Geyser (2 miles).

### Lake Area (check for seasonal closures)

9. Natural Bridge Road near Bridge Bay (1 mile).
10. The old roadbed near the lake shore between Lake Hotel and where the roadbed joins the main road south of Lake Junction (1 mile).

### Tower-Lamar Area:

11. Mount Washburn from the Chittenden Road parking area to the summit of Mt. Washburn (3 miles). Bicycles are not permitted on the trail between the summit and Dunraven Pass parking area.
12. Old Chittenden service road between Grand Loop Road and Tower Fall campground (2 miles). (Check locally: sometimes closed for bear management.)
13. Rose Creek service road behind the Lamar Ranger Station (1 mile).

## Information

Information concerning bicycling, facilities, weather, activities, road conditions, and services is available at any ranger station or visitor center, by phone (24 hours a day), or on the park's website.

Park Information (307) 344-7381  
www.nps.gov/yell

## In-Park Emergency 911

Lodging and activities reservations in Yellowstone:  
Xanterra Parks and Resorts  
(307) 344-7311  
www.TravelYellowstone.com

Bicycle photos courtesy of (clockwise from top) Tom Cawley, National Park Service; Bob Seibert.

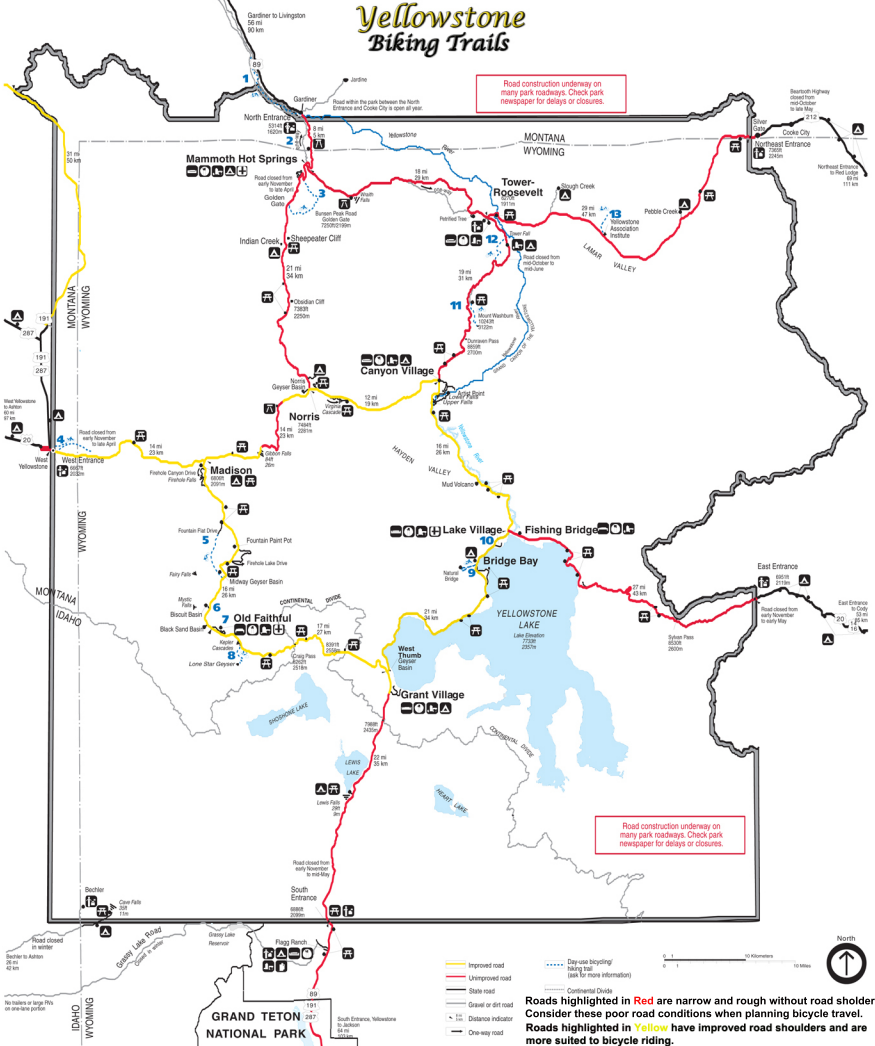
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Yellowstone National Park  
National Park Service



# Yellowstone Biking Trails



**Services and Facilities**

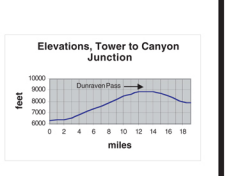
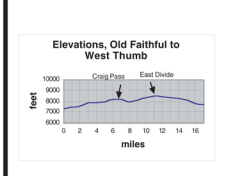
Check the park newspaper for seasonal dates of services and facilities.

- Ranger station
- Campground
- Linking
- Food service
- Picnic area
- Store

**Water road closures**  
 Many water roads are closed. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell) and contact the nearest park office.

**Backcountry use**  
 All permits required to backcountry use are available at the trailhead. Backcountry use is not permitted on roads. There are no horse trails.

**Fishing**  
 A Yellowstone National Park license is required. State licenses are also required to fish in state waters.



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Kilometers  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

North

- Improved road
- Unimproved road
- State road
- Gravel or dirt road
- Distance indicator
- One-way road
- Day use bicycling/ hiking trail (See for more information)
- Continental Divide

**Roads highlighted in Red are narrow and rough without road shoulders. Consider these poor road conditions when planning bicycle travel. Roads highlighted in Yellow have improved road shoulders and are more suited to bicycle riding.**