

Yellowstone/Grand Tetons Tour

- Cycle in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana!
- August 1 – August 11, 2019
- 11 days, 622 miles
- Elevations from 5300 – 8860 ft
- Go through 4 of the 5 entrances to Yellowstone (East, South, West, and North, but not the Northeast entrance)
- Check out all 6 Yellowstone Visitor Centers
- Includes 5 shorter days and 2 unloaded days to allow us to explore the many wonders of the parks
- Visit countless geysers, hot springs, pools, falls, and more – including Old Faithful
- Start and end in Cody, WY where there is an airport and hotels where we can leave vehicles



Cycling in Yellowstone

Check out the “Bicycling in Yellowstone” NPS video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3w4RLRSITM>



Photo by Jeff Vanuga

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/bike-through-yellowstone>



https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/yellowstone-opens-part-of-highway-to-cyclists-only/article_7d860919-cdcf-5a4d-982e-c737b2ee268d.html

Cycling Rules

- Cyclists are allowed on all roads in Yellowstone & the Grand Tetons
- Cyclists are allowed on some trails, but some are for hiking only.
- Bicyclists are required to ride single file.
- They are strongly encouraged to carry bear spray and should be prepared to turn around and backtrack when encountering wildlife on the road.
- Tail lights required.
- White headlights required in dark or poor weather conditions.

I started out by looking at **Adventure Cycling's Yellowstone/Grand Tetons** ride. I mapped their route using their descriptions of Day1 – Day7 and got a few ideas. However, there are still many differences:

<u>AC route</u>	<u>Our route</u>
289 miles	622 miles
8 days	11 days
All paved roads	Some trails, but mostly paved
Van support & transported to some destinations	No support
Clockwise route	Counter-clockwise route
\$1549	Camping fees & start/end hotel

Overview

This great tour takes you through America's first national park and the world's first such preserve, which was established in 1872 and covers an area of 3,468 square miles. We'll also visit the magnificent Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone's neighbor to the south.

Some of the sights you'll visit on this ride are known throughout the world: Yellowstone's famous bison and elk herds, the Teton Range, and Old Faithful Geyser, to name a few. Others are less known but no less spectacular: Mesa Falls, for instance, where the fabled Henry's Fork of the Snake River flows in dramatic fashion off the lip of the Yellowstone Caldera in a pair of powerful waterfalls. Softer beauty also abounds: from cool forests of quaking aspen to a cow moose quietly enjoying her dinner in a roadside pond. Our group will take in all that this region has to offer, and we'll do it in the relative luxury of our van-supported tour format.

Day 1

Jackson, 0 miles. We'll gather at the Elk Country Inn in Jackson where, after an orientation session, we'll have our first group meal in the picnic area of the lodge. Before crawling into your Old West cabin for the night, you can start getting acquainted with your fellow riding companions – and maybe even wander over to the historic Wort Hotel, whose classic Silver Dollar Bar features a bar inlaid with 2,032 uncirculated Morgan silver dollars.

Day2 – Day7: See AC website

Description	Details	Itinerary	Testimonials	Sign Up Now
Trip Dates:	Jul 06, 2019 – Jul 13, 2019			
Cost:	\$1,549.00			
Location:	Jackson, WY			
Physical Difficulty:	Intermediate+			
Booking Status:	Space still available			
Additional Departures:	Jul 14, 2019 - Jul 21, 2019 Jul 22, 2019 - Jul 29, 2019			

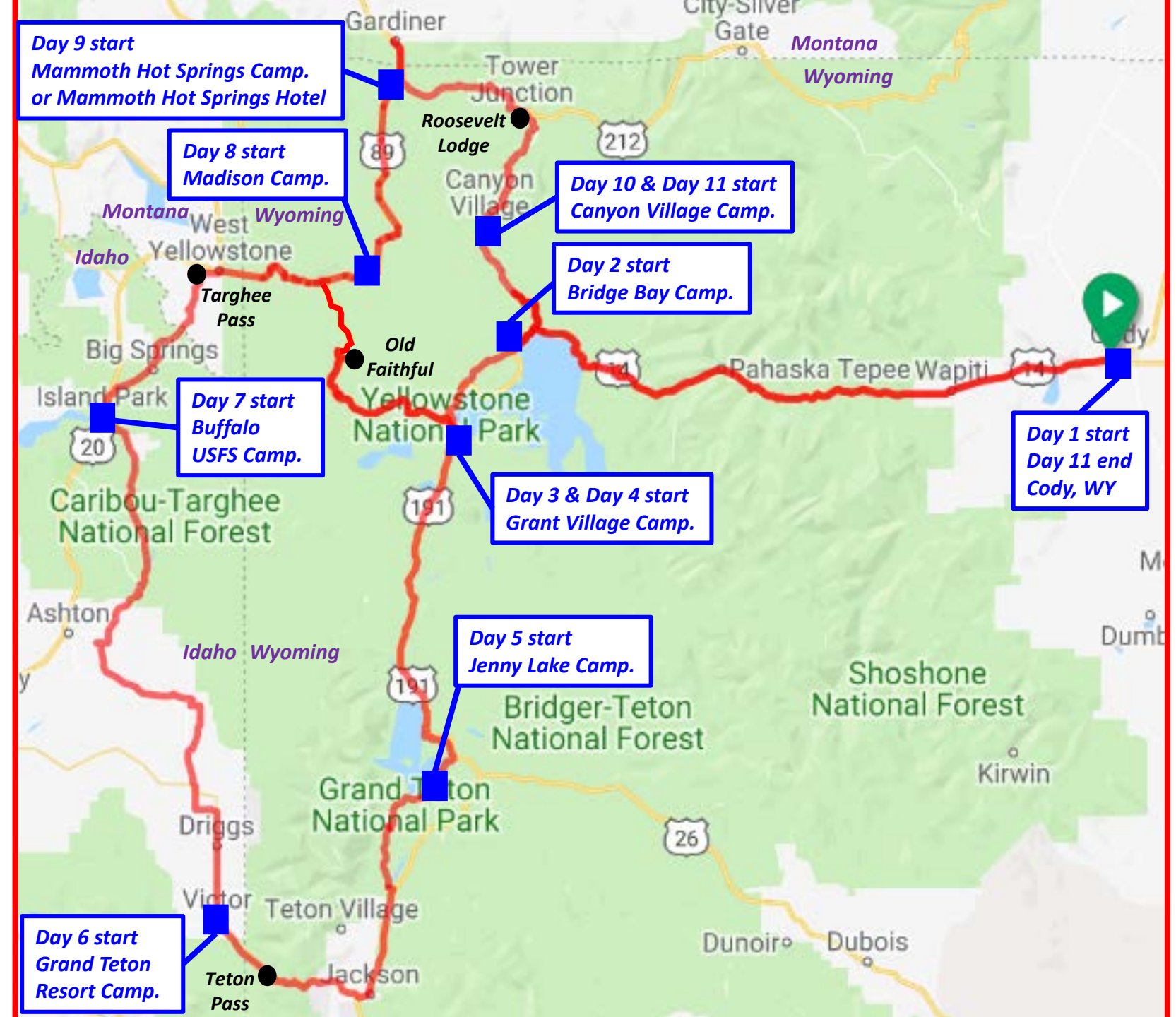
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Description	Details	Itinerary	Testimonials	Sign Up Now
Start Date:	Jul 06, 2019	End Date:	Jul 13, 2019	
Start Location:	Jackson, WY	End Location:	Jackson, WY	
Total Days:	8	Riding Days:	6	
Rest Days:	2	Miles:	289	
Average Daily Mileage:	48.2	Surface:	Paved	
Riders:	10	Elevation Alert:	High point: 8400'	
Airport:	Jackson Hole (JAC)	Meals:	Shared cooking	
Accommodations:	Camping	Type:	Supported	
Physical Difficulty:	Intermediate+	Level of Support:	Van Supported	
Cost:	\$1,549.00	Unsuitable Bicycle Types:	E-Bike, E-Trike	

Tour Route

- Detailed cue sheets and GPX files will be created later using RideWithGPS



Yellowstone/Grand Tetons

Day	Day of Week	Date	Start Location	End Location	Miles	Notes	Climbing (ft)	Hot Showers?	Laundry?	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
1	1-Aug	Thu	Best Western Sunset Inn Cody, WY	Bridge Bay Campground Yellowstone	81.4		4577	3 miles away at Fishing Village (but may be closed in 2019)	No	Free breakfast in hotel	Pack lunch to eat at picnic area.	Lake Yellowstone Hotel has restaurant, cafeteria, and deli. 3 miles before camp. Open until 9pm.
2	2-Aug	Fri	Bridge Bay Campground Yellowstone	Grant Village Campground Yellowstone	43.2		1053	Yes (pay showers)	Yes	Lake Yellowstone Hotel has restaurant, cafeteria, and deli. 3 miles from camp.	Lake Yellowstone Hotel has restaurant, cafeteria, and deli. 3 miles from camp.	Grant Village has two restaurants
3	3-Aug	Sat	Grant Village Campground Yellowstone	Grant Village Campground Yellowstone	47.0	Unloaded ride	3232	Yes (pay showers)	Yes	Grant Village has two restaurants	There are 6 or more restaurants in the Old Faithful area	Grant Village has two restaurants
4	4-Aug	Sun	Grant Village Campground Yellowstone	Jenny Lake Campground Grand Tetons	62.3		1614	No, but could stop at Colter Bay 19 miles before camp	No, but could stop at Colter Bay 19 miles before camp	Grant Village has two restaurants	Sheffield's Restaurant at Flagg Ranch	Jenny Lake Lodge Dining Room (6-9pm)
5	5-Aug	Mon	Jenny Lake Campground Grand Tetons	Teton Valley Resort and Campground Grand Tetons Victor, ID	46.7		2395	Yes	Yes	Jenny Lake Lodge Dining Room (7:30 - 10am)	Restaurant in Jackson, WY. Many choices. Take time to explore the town.	Several nearby restaurants in Victor, ID
6	6-Aug	Tue	Teton Valley Resort and Campground Grand Tetons Victor, ID	Buffalo Campground (USFS) Island Park, ID	76.9		1627	No	No	Several nearby restaurants in Victor, ID	Three Rivers Ranch Warm River, ID	Restaurant in Island Park, ID
7	7-Aug	Wed	Buffalo Campground (USFS) Island Park, ID	Madison Campground Yellowstone	54.0		1500	In West Yellowstone, 14 miles before camp	In West Yellowstone, 14 miles before camp	Restaurant in Flat Rock, ID (5.5 miles from camp)	Restaurant in West Yellowstone, MT	Buy food in West Yellowstone to carry to camp
8	8-Aug	Thu	Madison Campground Yellowstone	Mammoth Hot Springs Campground Yellowstone	62.6		1500	No, but perhaps at nearby Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel	No, but perhaps at nearby Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel	Buy food in West Yellowstone to carry to camp	Pack lunch on the road or late lunch in Mammoth Hot Springs.	Mammoth Hotel Dining Room or Mammoth Grill
9	9-Aug	Fri	Mammoth Hot Springs Campground Yellowstone	Canyon Campground Yellowstone	37.2		4478	Yes	Yes	Mammoth Hotel Dining Room or Mammoth Grill	Roosevelt Lodge	Many restaurant choices in Canyon Village
10	10-Aug	Sat	Canyon Campground Yellowstone	Canyon Campground Yellowstone	18.2	Unloaded ride	1256	Yes	Yes	Many restaurant choices in Canyon Village	Many restaurant choices in Canyon Village	Many restaurant choices in Canyon Village
11	11-Aug	Sun	Canyon Campground Yellowstone	Best Western Sunset Inn Cody, WY	92.6	Quite a bit of downhill	1919	Yes	Yes	Many restaurant choices in Canyon Village	Pack lunch to eat at picnic area.	Restaurant in Cody, WY
					622.1		25151					

Day 1 – Thurs, Aug 1 – Best Western Sunset Inn (Cody, WY) to Bridge Bay Campground - 80.6 miles, 4577 ft climbing



Day 1: There are 5 entrances into Yellowstone. The city closest to the eastern entrance is Cody, WY. This is a good place to start the tour as there is an airport for anyone flying and there are hotels where we can start and end the trip and leave vehicles.

We will cycle US Highway 14-16-20, the **Buffalo Bill Cody Scenic Byway**, which follows the North Fork of the Shoshone River through the scenic Wapiti Valley to the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park (Google Maps shows a small shoulder). This is a beautiful stretch, but there are few services or campgrounds. The campgrounds are primitive and have warnings of heavy bear activity.

As a result, our first and last days of the trip are the longest.

Meals: We can eat breakfast in the hotel, pack a picnic lunch to eat along the way, and then stop at the Lake Yellowstone Hotel 3 miles before camp (or set up camp and cycle back unloaded).

Note that we will pass the Fishing Bridge Campground at the top of Lake Yellowstone. This campground does not allow tent camping and is also closed in 2019 for renovation.



Day 1 – Thurs, Aug 1 (continued)

Bridge Bay Campground was named for its proximity to Bridge Bay Marina on Yellowstone Lake. The area is quite scenic, with wooded areas, open meadows and some limited views of the lake. Because of its location, the campground is popular with fishing and boating enthusiasts. The campground offers open sites with few trees or shadier options in the wooded upper loops of the campground. The location is within sight of the western shoreline of Yellowstone Lake, and at 7,800 feet in elevation.

- There are no electricity
- There are over 400 regular sites and 4 group sites available.
- Sites for hikers and cyclists are also available.
- 16 public restrooms with flush toilets and faucets with cold running water.
- Pay showers and coin laundry facilities are located 3 miles away at Fishing Bridge RV Park. (closed in 2019, so need to check on this)
- Interagency Access and Senior Pass discounts are applicable at this campground.
- Hiker/biker, per person \$7.75.
- Laundry facilities for both camping and lodging guests are located at Lake Lodge, Old Faithful Snow Lodge and in the camper services buildings at Grant and Canyon Campgrounds and Fishing Bridge RV Park.

Yellowstone Natural Bridge Bike/Hike Trail (2.5 mi RT, starts at the Bridge Bay Marina near the campground) - The natural bridge is a 51 foot cliff of rhyolite rock cut through by Bridge Creek. The trail meanders through the forest for .7 of a mile then joins a service road and continues to the right (west) for .4 of a mile to the Natural Bridge. The short but steep switchback trail to the top of the bridge starts in front of the interpretive exhibit.

The Lake Yellowstone Hotel (with 3 dining choices) is 3 miles from Bridge Bay Campground

Lake Hotel Deli (in the Lake Hotel)

Food service is first-come, first-served.
Continental Breakfast 6:30 – 10:30 A.M.
Sandwiches to Order 10:30 – 9:00 P.M.



Lake Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast and lunch are on a first-come, first-seated basis. Reservations are required for dinner [307-344-7311](tel:307-344-7311)
Breakfast 6:30 – 10:00 A.M.
Lunch 11:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
Dinner* 5:00 – 10:00 P.M.

Lake Lodge Cafeteria

Breakfast 7:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Continental Breakfast 7:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
Light Lunch (Cold Items Only) 11:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Dinner 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Day 2 – Fri, Aug 2
Bridge Bay Campground to
Grant Village Campground
43.2 miles, 1053 ft climbing



<https://goo.gl/maps/PvjxfNQAamy>

Day 2:

- Breakfast: Cycle 3 miles to Lake Yellowstone Hotel (3 restaurant choices, opens 6:30am) on the way to Mud Volcano.
- Continue to Mud Volcano. **Mud Volcano Trail** is a 0.7 mile heavily trafficked loop trail that features hot springs and is good for all skill levels.
- Cycle back to Lake Yellowstone Hotel for lunch.
- After lunch, cycle to the West Thumb Geyser Basin (see below) to explore.
- Continue to Grant Village Campground (see next slide).



Day 2 – Fri, Aug 2 (continued)



Grant Campground is located in Grant Village at the south end of Yellowstone Lake.

- Sites: 430
- Elevation: 7,800 feet above sea level
- Pay showers/laundry: Yes (two showers included each night)
- There are two nearby stores, a restaurant, gas station, visitor center, and boat ramp.
- Rangers host evening programs from mid-June to September at the campground amphitheater.
- The visitor center is named for President Ulysses S. Grant, who signed the bill creating Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

Grant Village Lake House Restaurant

First-come, first-served. No reservations needed.

June 13 – September 22

Breakfast 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Dinner 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Grant Village Dining Room

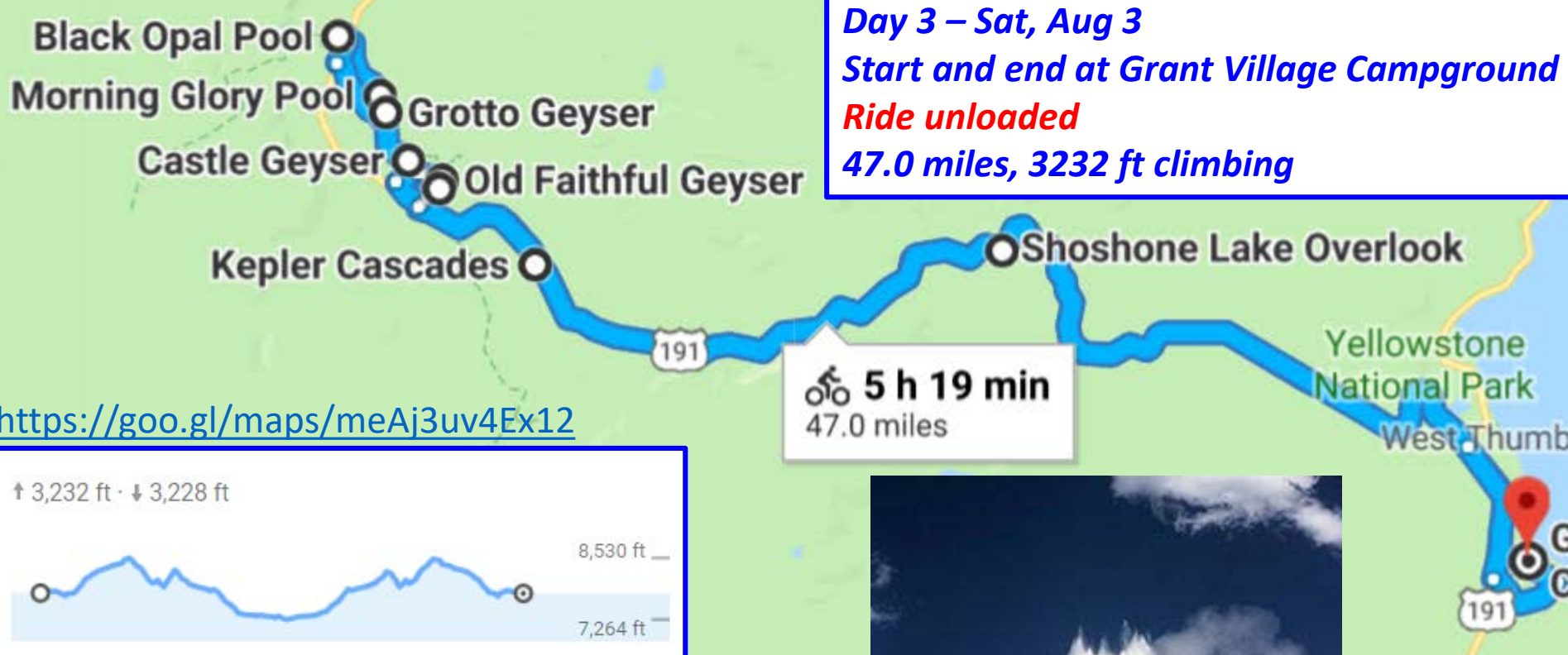
Breakfast and lunch - first-come, first-seated basis.

Reservations are required for dinner [307-344-7311](tel:307-344-7311)

Breakfast 6:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Lunch 11:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Dinner* 5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.



Day 3 – Sat, Aug 3
Start and end at Grant Village Campground
Ride unloaded
47.0 miles, 3232 ft climbing

Old Faithful

- Is highly predictable and has erupted every 44 to 125 minutes since 2000.
- It erupts 20 times daily.
- The height of the eruption is 100- 180 feet.
- The eruptions last 1.5 to 5 minutes.
- It spews 3700 – 8400 gallons of water each time.

Great map

http://www.trailguidesyellowstone.com/graphic/old_faithful_overview_map.gif



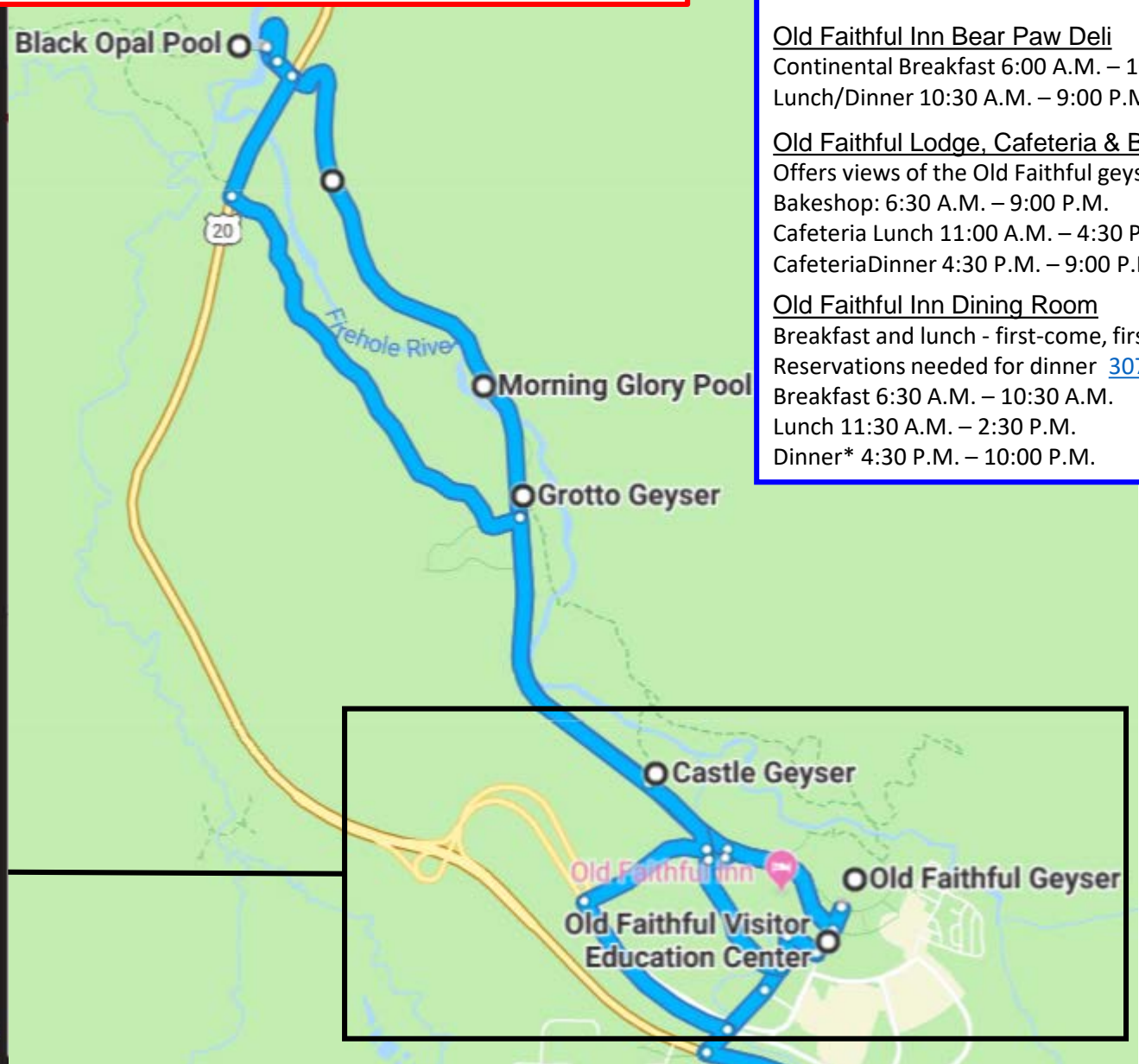
Day 3: Ride unloaded to visit Old Faithful!

- The Park Service says that the best time to visit Old Faithful is early before so many visitor arrive (avoid noon – 6pm when buses arrive).
- We can eat breakfast in a Grant Village restaurant and then cycle 17 miles to Old Faithful.
- We will likely spend much of the day in that area exploring nearby pools, geysers and cascades (34 – 47 miles total, depending on how far we go past Old Faithful)
- The area near Old Faithful includes Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Lodge, Snow Lodge, the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, and 5 restaurants.

Old Faithful Lower General Store to Morning Glory Pool Bike Trail
The paved trail in front of Old Faithful Lodge runs all the way to Morning Glory Pool. Take this short, (2 mi. round-trip) fairly level, paved-path and make stops to see geysers.

Old Faithful

7365 ft 2245 m



- Old Faithful Snow Lodge Geyser Grill
Lunch/Dinner 10:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
- Old Faithful Snow Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast 6:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
Dinner 5:00 P.M. – 10:30 P.M.
- Old Faithful Inn Bear Paw Deli
Continental Breakfast 6:00 A.M. – 10:30 P.M.
Lunch/Dinner 10:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
- Old Faithful Lodge, Cafeteria & Bake Shop
Offers views of the Old Faithful geyser
Bakeshop: 6:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Cafeteria Lunch 11:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Cafeteria Dinner 4:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M..
- Old Faithful Inn Dining Room
Breakfast and lunch - first-come, first-seated
Reservations needed for dinner [307-344-7311](tel:307-344-7311)
Breakfast 6:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
Lunch 11:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
Dinner* 4:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Day 4 – Sun, Aug 4 – Grant Village Campground to Jenny Lake Campground – 62.3 miles, 1677 ft climbing



Day 4: - A fairly easy day with more downhill than uphill, but with several interesting sites to check out.

- **Breakfast:** Restaurant in Grant Village by the campground
- **Lewis Falls** – 30 ft falls easily accessible from parking lots on each side of the Lewis River bridge.
- **Moose Falls** – 30 ft plunge waterfall on Crawfish Creek. 75 yd trail.
- **Flagg Ranch** – this ranch on the Snake River has a lodge, restaurant, cabins, camping, horseback riding, kayaking, hiking, and more. Lunch at Sheffield’s Restaurant on the ranch.
- **Lunch:** *Sheffield’s Restaurant at Flagg Ranch* (11:30 – 2:00)
- **Colter Bay Visitor Center** – Campground, lodge, restaurant, laundry, showers, general store, hiking, etc.
- **Oxbow Bend** – The most photographed site in the Grand Tetons with the image of Mt. Moran reflecting in the Snake River.
- **Camping:** Jenny Lake Campground doesn’t take reservations and it was hard to find other campgrounds that worked with the distances we would like to cover. However, they do have 10 or 12 biker/hiker sites. I found one web site that said they would guarantee a spot for biker/hikers, but I will call sometime to verify. No showers or laundry, but we could stop at Colter Bay (19.8 miles before camp) or Signal Mountain (10.5 miles before camp) first to shower and do laundry (19 miles before Jenny Lake). They have flush toilets.
- **Signal Mountain Campground:** Lodge (with restaurant), general store, and campground.
“At Signal Mountain Lodge, we offer a public shower and laundromat facility for all park visitors.”



Truly one of the crown jewels in camping, the Jenny Lake Campground is situated within walking distance from Jenny Lake and is right along the Grand Teton National Park bike path. All campsites have a picnic table, fire, and snacks flush toilets. There are no shower facilities on site, but several are within a short drive. Jenny Lake Campground accommodates tent camping only. Campground has 49 individual tent campsites and 10 sites designated for hikers and bicyclists. There are no group sites at Jenny Lake. Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. June through September the campground typically fills daily by 9 AM on earlier

Day 4 – Sun, Aug 4 – continued

Oxbow Bend in Grand Teton National Park is without a doubt the most photographed place in the entire park. The image of the Snake River with Mount Moran's reflection is iconic and is probably the most recognized image of Grand Teton National Park throughout the world.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60524-d527407-Reviews-Oxbow_Bend-Moran_Jackson_Hole_Wyoming.html#photos:aggregationId=&albumId=101&filter=78ff-18781



Scenic Cruises - Jenny Lake Boating

A scenic cruise on Jenny Lake is sure to be one of the highlights of your trip to Grand Teton National Park. The cruise takes approximately 1 hour on the lake with one of our knowledgeable guides. You will learn about the history and geology of the area as well as the flora and fauna around the lake. The photo opportunities on the cruise are second to none. You are directly below the Cathedral Group on the lake.

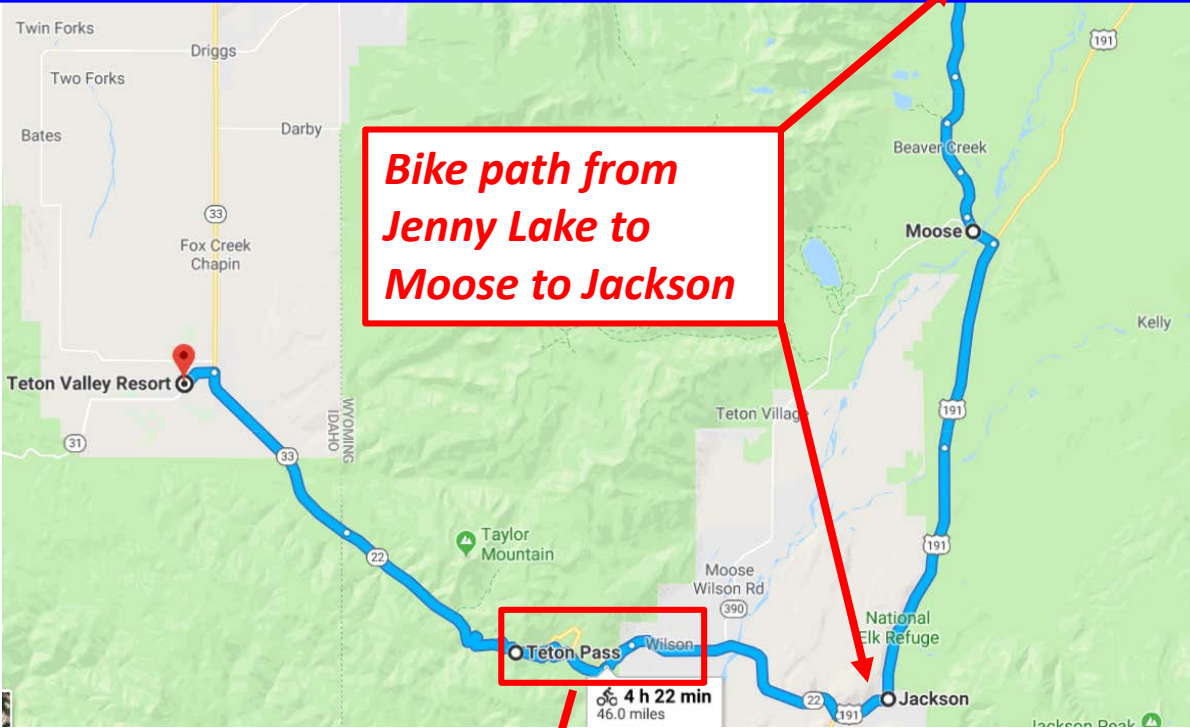
June 8 – Sept 3 : 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm

Adults (12 – 62) \$19.00, Seniors (62 yr and over) \$17.00

Reservations are recommended. **307-734-9227**.



Day 5 – Mon, Aug 5 – Jenny Lake Campground to Teton Valley Resort Campground – 46.7 miles, 2395 ft climbing

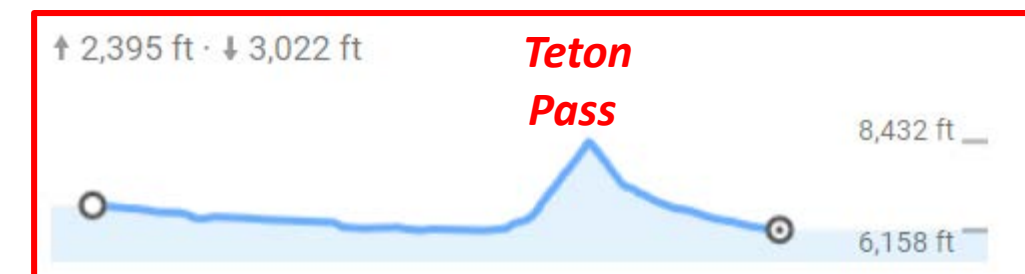


Day 5 – A shorter day mostly on multi-use paths that will give us some time to explore in Moose and Jackson. There are multi-use trails from Jenny Lake to Moose, Moose to Jackson, Jackson to Wilson, and Wilson to Teton Pass! On the way to Jackson we will pass the **National Elk Refuge**, where 8000 elk winter each year.

*“Grand Teton not only boasts the most paved trails out of any national park, but with the recent completion of the **Jenny Lake Pathway**, it can claim to have the best. The section of path that begins at Moose Junction and culminates on the shores of Jenny Lake promises neck-craning views of the peaks, jagged glacial canyons, and pristine alpine forests that characterize the Grand Teton National Park's ecosystem.”*

Note: Park passes for cyclists and walkers are \$12
The historic **Old Pass Road** parallels Highway 22 from the Trail Creek trailhead near Wilson, to the 8,431' **Teton Pass** summit. Closed to motorized vehicles and horses this paved pathway provides great uphill access to every trail on **Teton Pass**. 3.6 miles, 2040 ft climbing, max grade 11.9%.

Bike path (Old Pass Road) to Teton Pass (8431 ft)



Day 5 – Mon, Aug 5 (continued)

Moose, WY – We will pass through here in mid-morning and might stop by check out so sights, including:

- ***Grand Tetons National Park HQ***
- ***Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center*** - The \$22 million, 22,000-square-foot center, also called the Moose Visitor Center, was built in 2007 to spread awe among visitors about the majesty of the Teton Mountains, which are on display through the center's enormous floor-to-ceiling windows.
- ***Menors Ferry Historic District*** - Menors Ferry was established as a way for early settlers to safely cross the Snake River. The family-friendly 0.3 mile loop of the area features 19th-century buildings, interpretive displays, a general store, and a replica of the ferry.

Jackson, WY – We stop here to explore and eat lunch. Note: **Jackson** is the city and **“Jackson Hole”** is the area (a valley).

- ***Many shops, hotels, and restaurants***
- ***Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center*** - A series of exhibits explain the establishment of the National Elk Refuge and offer a glimpse of some of its history, describe elk migration routes and seasonal ranges, and provide wildlife viewing information.
- ***Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum*** – Open 10-5, \$6 or \$4 for seniors.
- ***Historic Wort Hotel*** - includes the ***Silver Dollar Bar & Grill*** with a bar inlaid with 2032 uncirculated Morgan silver dollars. Possibly lunch choice. Good menu.

Teton Valley Resort (and Campground) – Victor, ID – Luxury cabins, RV and tent sites, tipis, glamping units, clubhouse, pool, and more.

Tent sites: \$25 per tent site. Hot showers. Coin laundry.

Nearby restaurants: Spoons Bistro, Victor Emporium, Butter Café, Knotty Pine, Big Hole BBQ Victor, Victor Valley Market & Café (7am-9pm) and more.

Fitzgerald's Bicycles - 20 Cedron Rd, Victor, ID



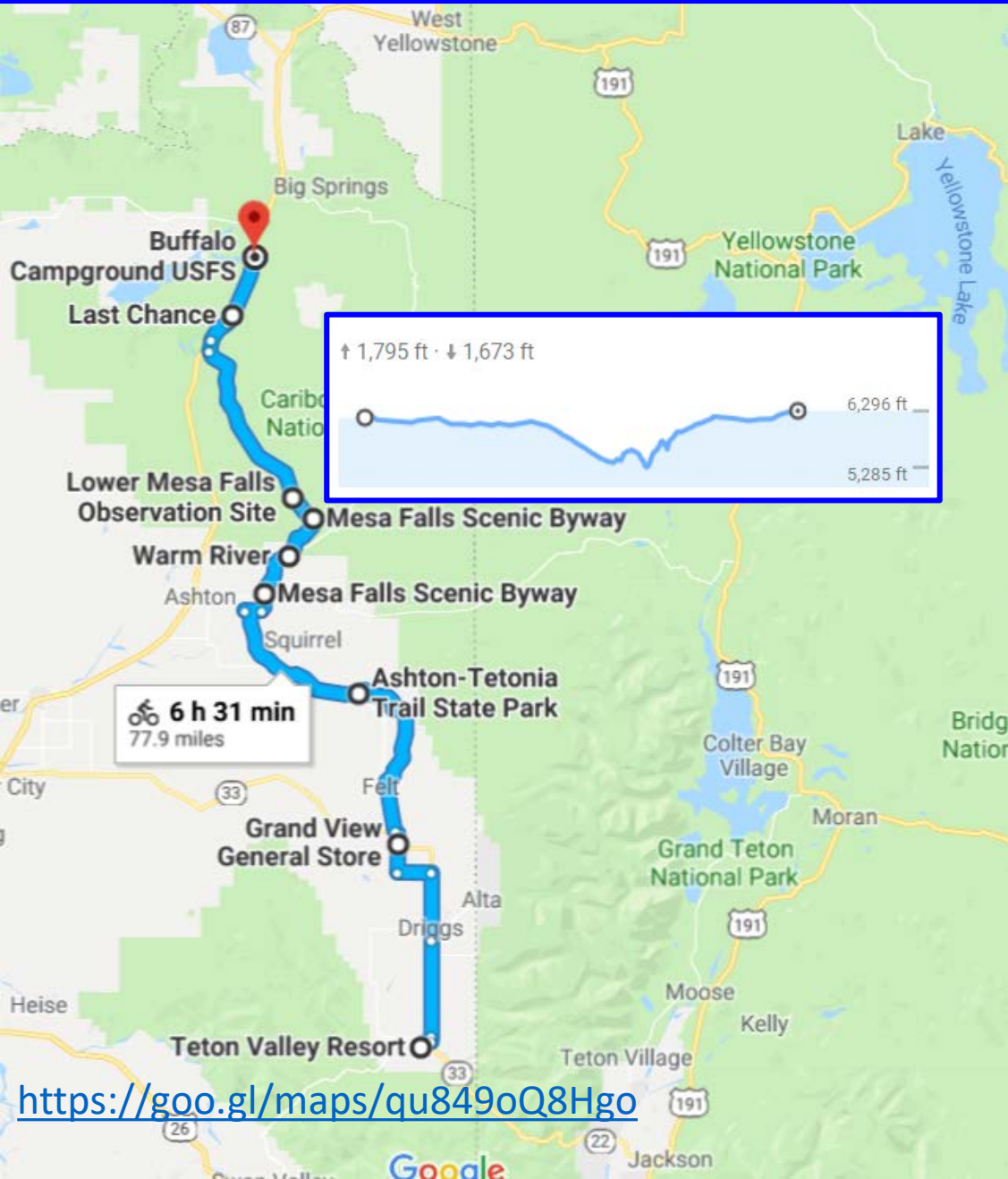
Sign on Teton Pass



Antler Arch in Town Square in Jackson, WY

Teton Pass is a high mountain pass in the western United States, located at the southern end of the Teton Range of western Wyoming, between the towns of Wilson, Wyoming and Victor, Idaho. The pass provides access from the Jackson Hole valley to the Teton Valley of eastern Idaho, which includes the access route to Grand Targhee Resort through Driggs, Idaho. To the south of the pass, lies the Snake River Range.

Day 6 – Tues, Aug 6 – Teton Valley Resort (Victor, ID) to Buffalo Campground (Island Park, ID) – 77.9 miles, 1795 ft climbing



Day 6

- Beautiful ride in Idaho with light traffic and lots of bike trails.
- **Ashton-Tetonia Trail** (rail trail) – we will follow this trail for 25.7 miles (MP18.0-44.7)
- **Mesa Falls Scenic Byway** - we will follow this scenic road for 23.4 miles through the ***Caribou-Targhee National Forest*** which offers easy access to the amazing Upper and Lower Mesa Falls.
- **Breakfast** – restaurant in Victor, ID near Teton Valley Resort
- **Lunch** – Restaurant at ***Three Rivers Ranch*** near Warm River, ID
- **Dinner** – A few choices in ***Last Chance, ID*** (4.5 mi before camp), including Rustic Smokehouse, Last Chance Bar & Grill at TroutHunter, Grub Stake Market & Deli
- **Lower Mesa Falls** - a gushing 65 ft waterfall on the Henry’s Fork of the Snake River. Short trail to viewpoint from above the falls.
- **Upper Mesa Falls** - Impressive falls shown below are 114 ft high and 200 ft wide.
- **Mesa Falls Visitor Center** – From the Visitor Center, an accessible trail and boardwalk provide spectacular views of Mesa Falls.



<https://goo.gl/maps/qu849oQ8Hgo>

Day 6 – Tues, Aug 6 (continued)

The **Ashton-Tetonia Trail** opened to the public in 2010 and is administered by the Idaho department of Parks and Recreation and managed through Harriman State Park. This 29.6 mile trail follows the abandoned railroad grade of the Teton Valley Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad from Ashton to Tetonia. It has a gravel rail bed and trail includes five bridges and restored rail trestles.



<https://www.trailink.com/trail-gallery/ashton-tetonia-trail/>

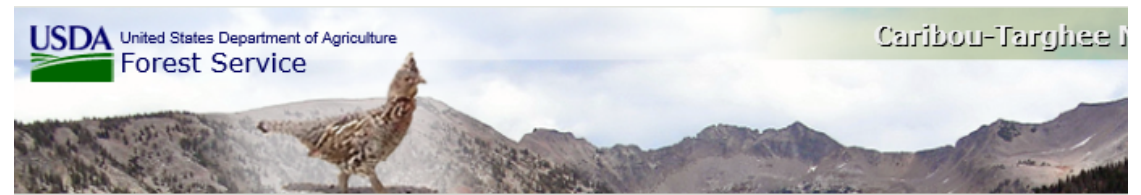
I emailed a nearby private campground, **Buffalo Run RV Park & Cabins** to see if they allow tent camping. No response yet.

Also checking on **Harriman State Park** which rents yurts, a bunkhouse, and some other houses.

Buffalo Campground – Island Park, ID

- USFS campground on the banks of the Buffalo River
- Elevation: 6200 ft
- Reservations accepted
- \$15/night or \$7.50/night for seniors
- Water and flush toilets, but no showers.
- No laundry.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=53813&actid=29>



Due to a lapse in federal funding, this USDA website will not be actively updated. Once funding online operations will continue. On-going operational updates will be posted [here](#) (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=53813&actid=29>) we are able to provide them.

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Site Map

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

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Buffalo Campground

Area Status: Closed



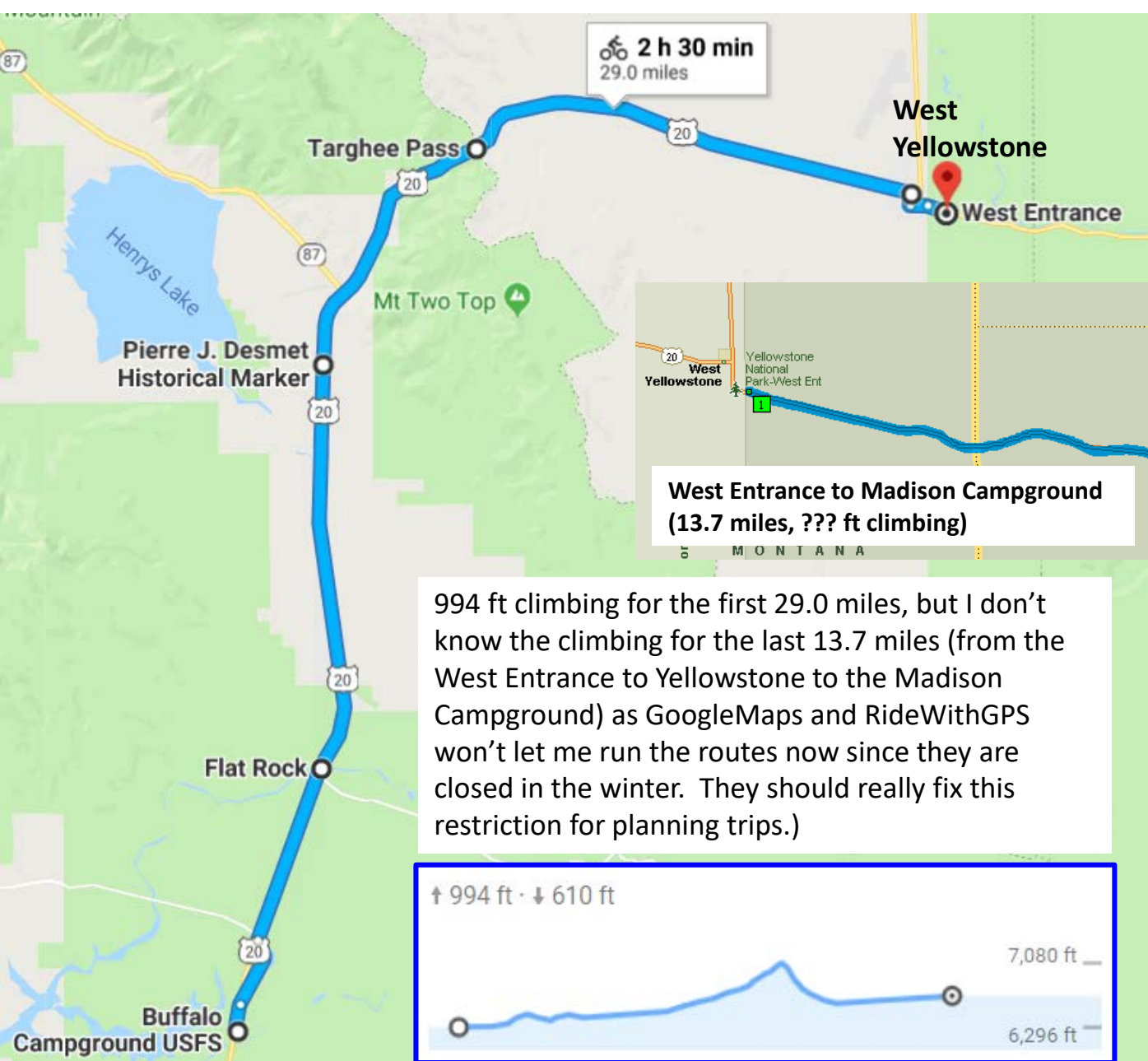
Buffalo Campground is located 26 miles south of West Yellowstone, Montana in beautiful Island Park, Idaho along the banks of the Buffalo River at an elevation of 6,200 feet. A mixed growth pine forest provides partial shade; aspens dot the landscape, and summer wildflowers are abundant. The Buffalo River has good brook and rainbow trout fishing. Wildlife can be frequently spotted throughout the area. Buffalo Campground boasts 117 single units, 4 double units, and 1 group site. It has some power hook-ups and is a good fishing spot.

At a Glance

Current Conditions:

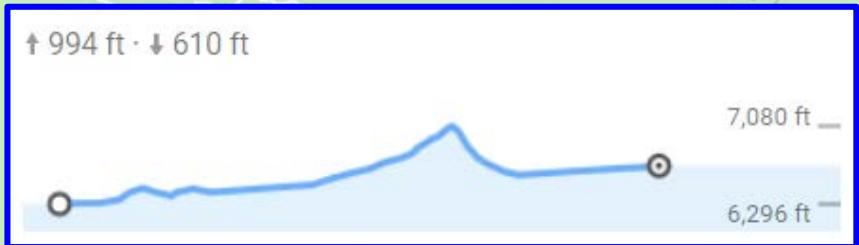
The campground is closed for the 2018 season.

Day 7 – Wed, Aug 7 – Buffalo USFS Campground (Island Park, ID) to Madison Campground (Yellowstone) – 54 miles, 1500? climbing



West Entrance to Madison Campground (13.7 miles, ??? ft climbing)

994 ft climbing for the first 29.0 miles, but I don't know the climbing for the last 13.7 miles (from the West Entrance to Yellowstone to the Madison Campground) as GoogleMaps and RideWithGPS won't let me run the routes now since they are closed in the winter. They should really fix this restriction for planning trips.)



Day 7

- We will Idaho into Montana (at Targhee Pass), continue to the city of West Yellowstone, enter the West Entrance to the park, cross from Montana into Wyoming, and stop for camp at the Madison Campground.
- **Targhee Pass** (7072 ft) – a mountain pass on the Continental divide in the Henrys Lake Mountains along the border of Idaho and Montana. Named for a Bannack Indian chief.

- **Riverside Bike Trail** (1.3 mi) – Just inside the West Entrance, the trail parallels the **Grand Loop Road** and gives access to the Madison River. Fairly level trail.
- **Breakfast:** Cycle 5 miles into **Flat Rock, ID** – several restaurants
- **Lunch:** **West Yellowstone, MT** – several restaurants
- **Dinner:** Buy food in West Yellowstone to carry 14 miles to camp. Also buy items for breakfast and lunch the following day!
- If time allows once we reach camp, we could cycle back toward Old Faithful to catch any parts of the loop that we missed on Day 3.

Day 7 – Wed, Aug 7 (continued)

West Yellowstone – Located just before the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park

- **Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center** (West Yellowstone, MT) – Open 8:30-4:00, Admission \$13. The Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center is an AZA accredited NOT-FOR-PROFIT wildlife facility with live wolves and bears.
- **West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center** - General park information, passes, permits, and brochures available at the NPS desk located inside the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce building.
- **West Yellowstone Historic Center** – To find the Museum, look for the Bronze bear statue on the front lawn, the stagecoaches on the front porch, the bright yellow water wagon near the front entrance, and the large sign on the corner. The Museum is conveniently located two blocks west of the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Open 9-9. \$6 admission.
- **Food Roundup Supermarket** –
- **Canyon Street Laundromat** – also has pay showers
- Many restaurants and shops



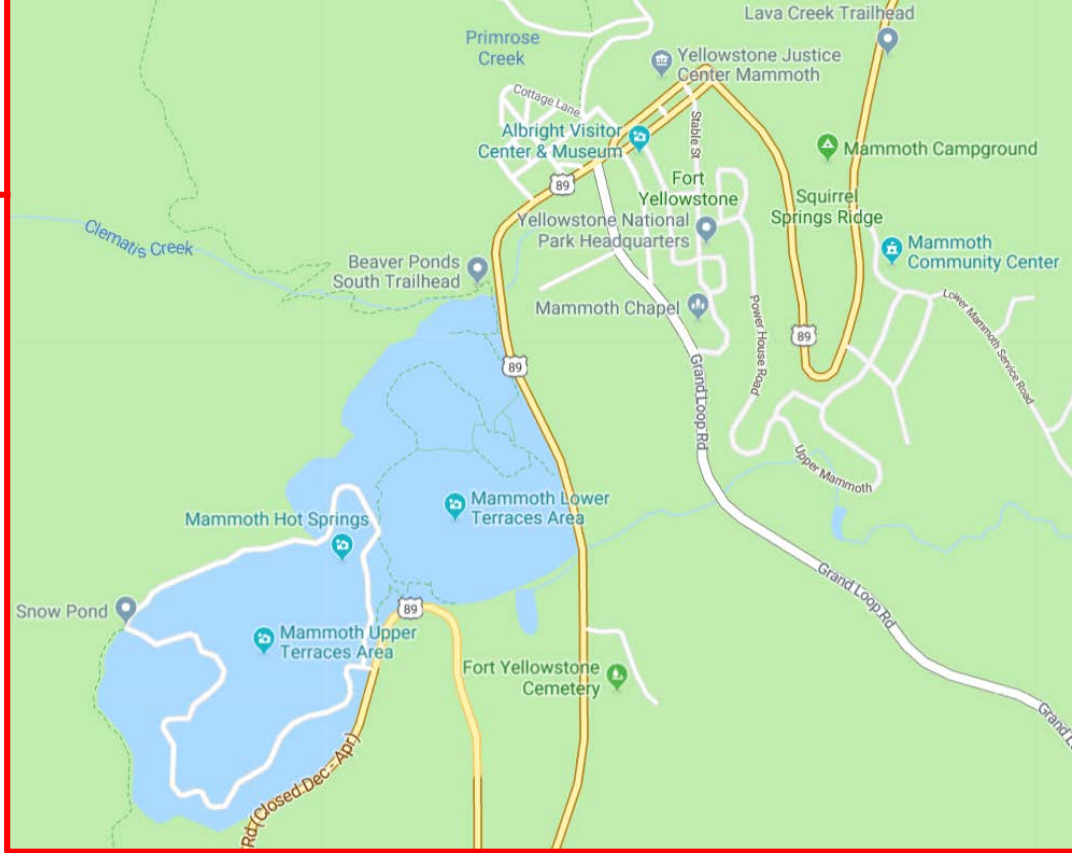
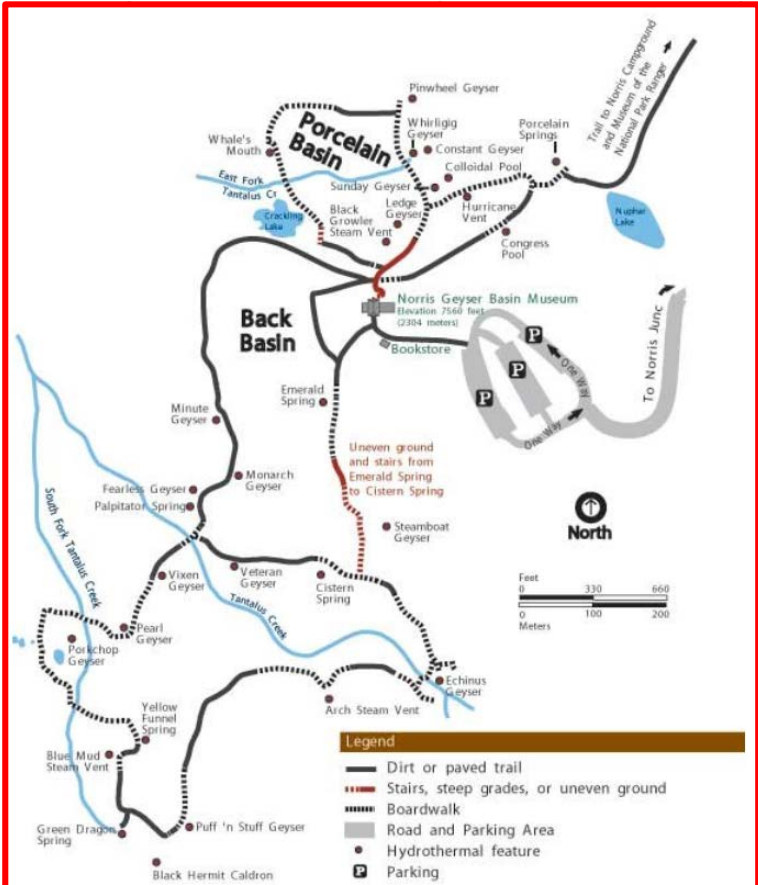
MADISON CAMPGROUND

Madison Campground

- Sites: 278
- Elevation: 6,800 feet above sea level
- Flush Toilets: Yes
- Although pay showers are not available on the premises, they are available at Old Faithful Inn (16 miles away) and at West Yellowstone (14 miles away) – ***Canyon Street Laundromat in West Yellowstone is open 7am – 10pm and also has pay showers.***
- One of our most popular campgrounds due to its central location
- Restroom facilities are equipped with flush toilets and sinks with running water.
- Nearby, the Gibbon and Firehole rivers join to form the Madison, all of which are considered world-class fly fishing destinations.
- Evening ranger programs take place from late May through September at the Madison Amphitheater.
- In spring and early summer, nearby meadows teem with wildflowers and grazing bison.

Day 8 – Thurs, Aug 8
Madison Campground to
Mammoth Hot Springs Campground
– 34.9 miles, 1500? ft climbing

On Day 8 we only cycle 34.9 miles, because there are so many sites to explore. (I don't know the elevation gain yet, as GoogleMaps and RideWithGPS won't let me run the routes now since they are closed in the winter. They should



We can cycle from Madison Campground to Norris Junction and stop at the **Norris Geyser Basin Museum**. Norris Geyser Basin is the hottest and most changeable thermal area in Yellowstone. We can explore many of the features by walking 2.25 miles of trails and boardwalks. Features include dozens of **geysers, pools, and steam vents**.

Breakfast: Eat in camp (buy items in West Yellowstone the day before)

Lunch: Eat on the road (buy items in West Yellowstone the day before) or else eat a late lunch in Mammoth Hot Springs (many choices).

Dinner: Many restaurants in Mammoth Hot Springs.

We will continue to the **Mammoth Hot Springs** area where we will camp and do more exploring. See next slide for more information.

Mammoth Hot Springs Campground – No laundry or showers, but perhaps at the nearby Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel (need to check)

Explore the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces



In Mammoth Hot Springs underlying limestone allow large **terraces** to form above ground. There are about 50 hot springs in this area. You can walk on the **Lower Terrace Boardwalks** above the steaming hydrothermal features or take a drive around 1.5 mile **Upper Terrace Loop**.

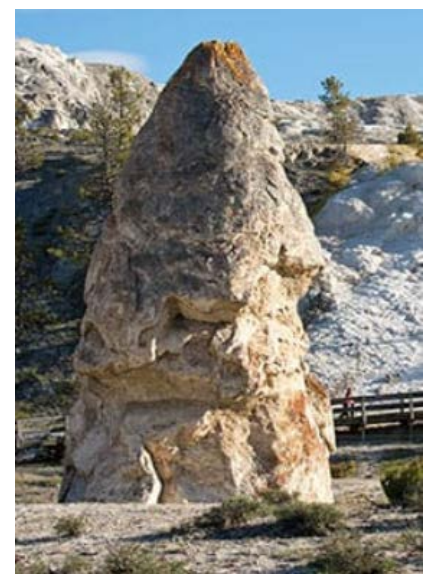
Mammoth Hotel Dining Room
First-come, first-seated basis. No reservations.
Breakfast 6:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Lunch 11:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
Dinner 5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
Mammoth Terrace Grill
First-come, first-seated basis. No reservations.
Breakfast 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Lunch/Dinner 11:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.



Tour historic Fort Yellowstone



Learn about history and wildlife at the Albright Visitor Center & Museum



Liberty Cap Terrace



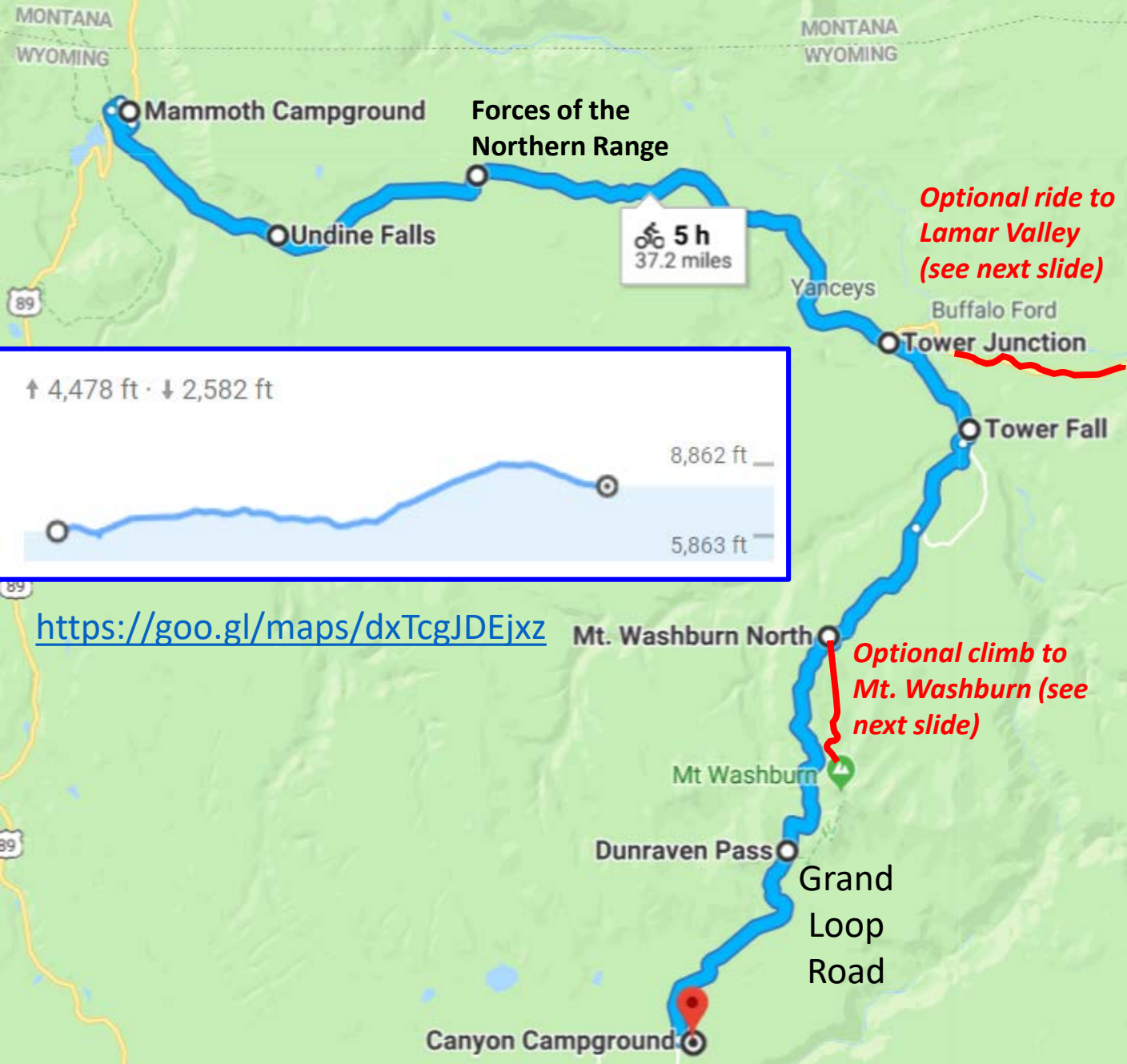
Palette Spring Terrace



Optional: Cycle north of Mammoth Hot Springs into Montana - The **Old Gardiner Road** is a 5-mile stretch of dirt road that roughly parallels the paved road (89) from Mammoth to Gardiner. Cars may only travel one-way to Gardiner, bicycle traffic may travel both ways. Visit **Roosevelt Arch** and more in Gardiner.



Day 9 – Fri, Aug 9 – Mammoth Campground to Canyon Campground
- 37.2 miles, 4478 ft climbing



Day 9: 37.2 miles sounds easy, but with 4478 ft of climbing, it may be challenging. The route includes many things to see, including:

Undine Falls - this three-step 60 ft waterfall appeared on the cover of National Geographic magazine in July 1977. Short, easy hike from the road.

Forces of the Northern Range - This short 1/2 mile boardwalk located on the Blacktail Deer Plateau between Mammoth Village and Tower Junction will open your eyes and educate you about forces of nature that have sculpted the land before you. It will also teach you about the plants and wildlife alike that live in Yellowstone's Northern Range.

Tower Junction/Roosevelt Lodge – The lodge offers a dining room and a huge porch to relax and enjoy the view, as well as horseback and stagecoach rides. (Breakfast 7-10am, Lunch 11:30-4:30, Dinner 4:30-9:30). Optional trip east of Tower Junction into Lamar Valley (see next slide). **Good spot for lunch.**

Tower Falls – The 132-foot drop of Tower Creek, framed by eroded volcanic pinnacles has been documented by park visitors from the earliest trips of Europeans into the Yellowstone region. Its idyllic setting has inspired numerous artists, including Thomas Moran. His painting of Tower Fall played a crucial role in the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

Calcite Springs Overlook (cycle 4 bonus miles RT from Tower Junction) - The Calcite Springs grouping of thermal springs along the Yellowstone River signals the downstream end of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

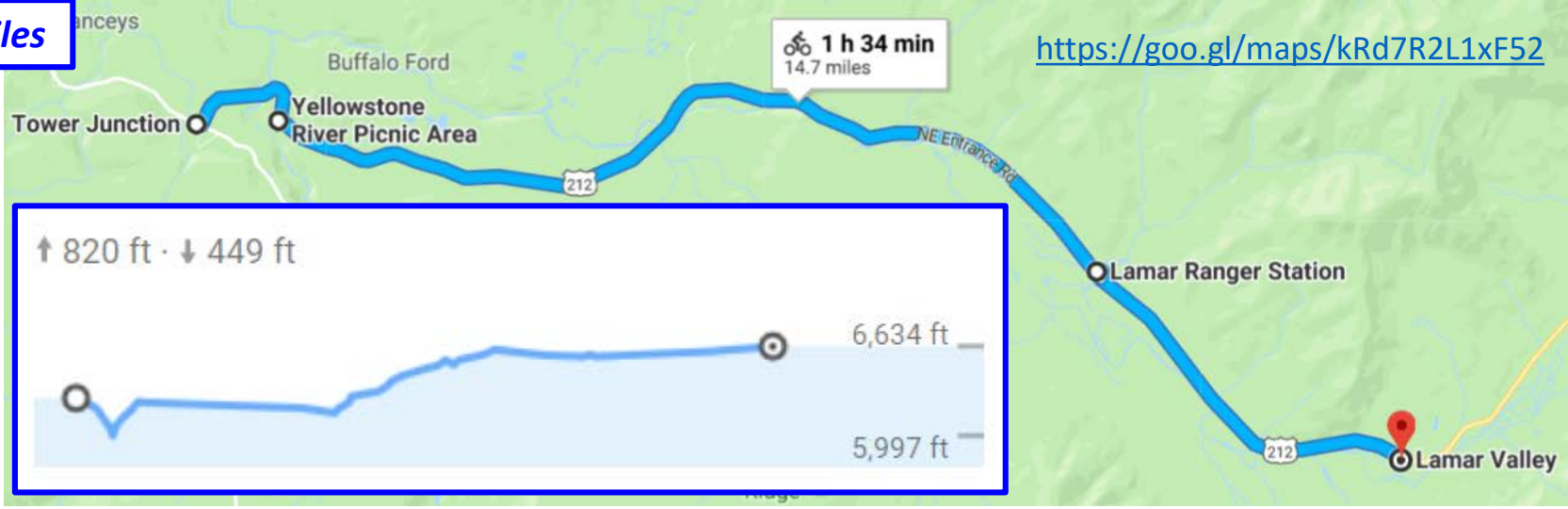
Mt Washburn North – Optional spur starts here (see next slide) for challenging ride to Yellowstone's highest peak.

Dunraven Pass (8,859 feet) is the highest road pass in Yellowstone National Park, and because of this, it can get snow at any time of year-even summer.

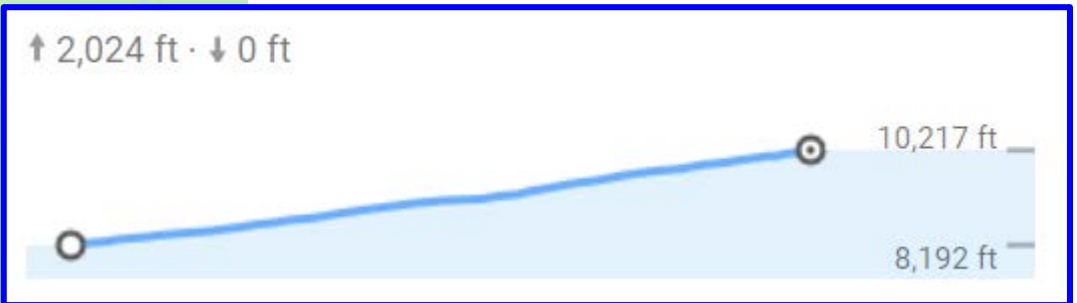
Canyon Village/Campground – So much to do at this popular spot that we will spend two days here. See next slide.

Day 9 – Fri, Aug 9 (continued) – Possible bonus miles

<https://goo.gl/maps/kRd7R2L1xF52>



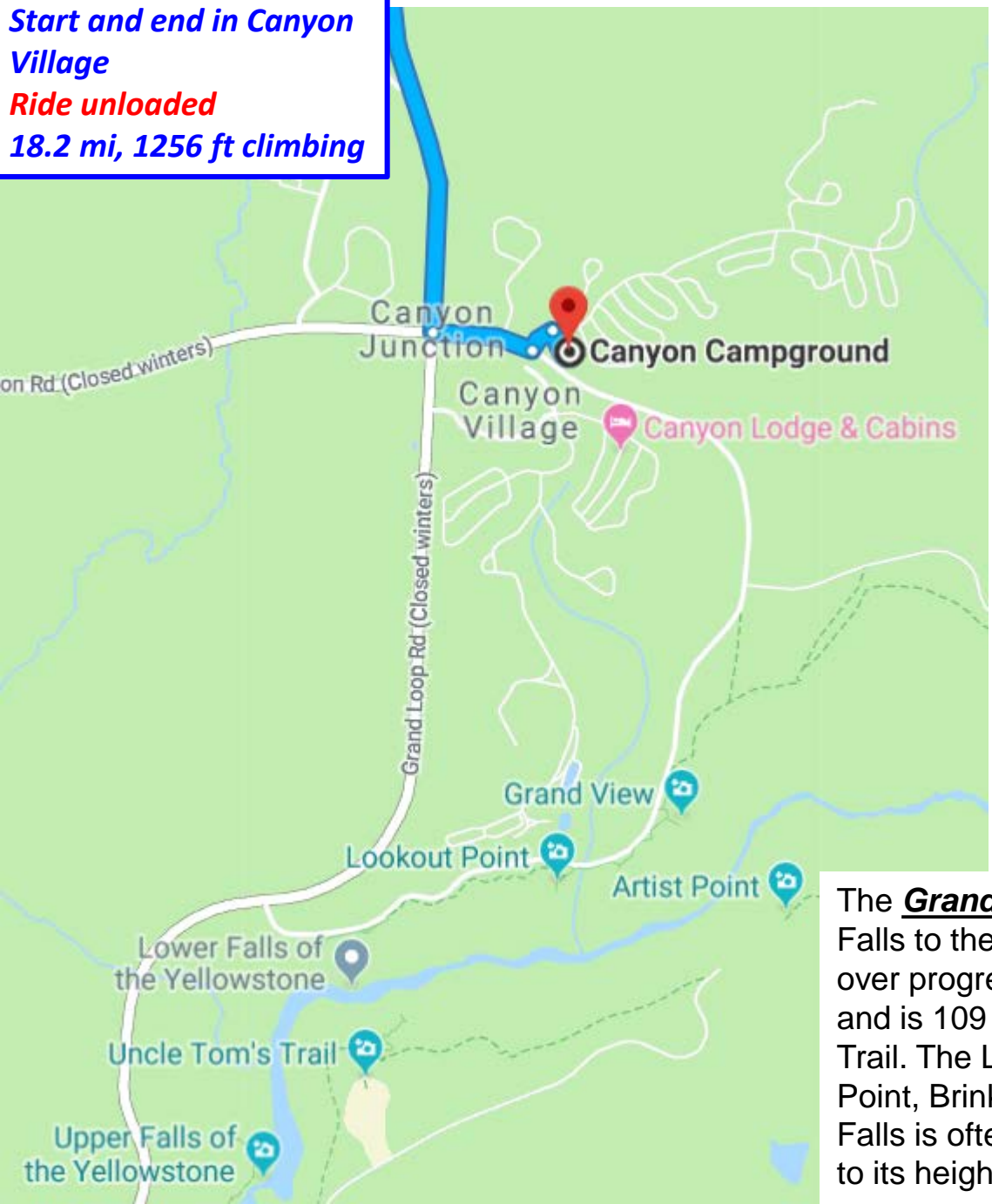
Optional side trip: Cycle from Tower Junction into Lamar Valley and back (up to 29.4 miles RT bonus miles with 1269 ft climbing). Here is what Yellowstone’s webpage says:
“Often less-visited than other areas, Lamar Valley’s habitat draws wildlife and the open vistas create optimum viewing conditions. You may see elk, bear, coyote, bighorn sheep, and eagles, especially if you arrive early.”



Optional side trip: Cycle to the top of Mount Washburn – 8 miles RT (climb 2024 ft in 4.0 miles)

Mount Washburn (10,243 feet) is one of the most popular day hiking destinations. Visitors can hike to the top via two trails that ascend Mount Washburn on a wide path with spectacular views. The trails start at the Dunraven Pass Trailhead and at the Chittenden Road parking area. Bicycles may use the trail from the Chittenden Road parking area. One web site lists average grade as 9.9%.

Day 10 – Sat, Aug 10
Start and end in Canyon Village
Ride unloaded
18.2 mi, 1256 ft climbing



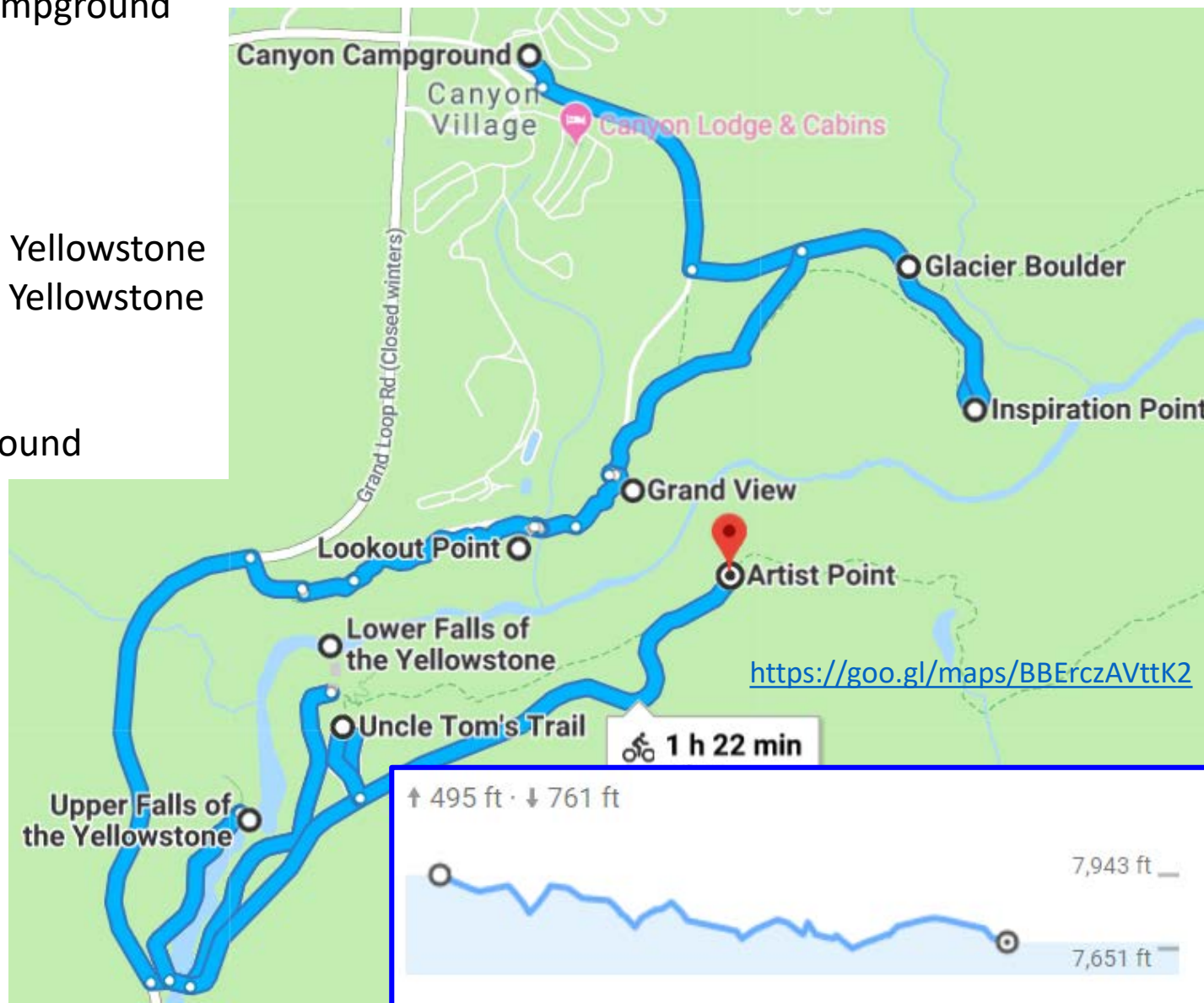
Day 10: We can spend the day near Canyon Village exploring trails and falls in the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone** and/or cycle to some nearby sites. Canyon Village is very popular and includes 5 restaurants, a general store, adventure gear store, ranger station, gas station, post office, and Visitor Center offering information, book/gift shop, unique and educational exhibits, as well as backcountry information and permits. See the next slide for more info.



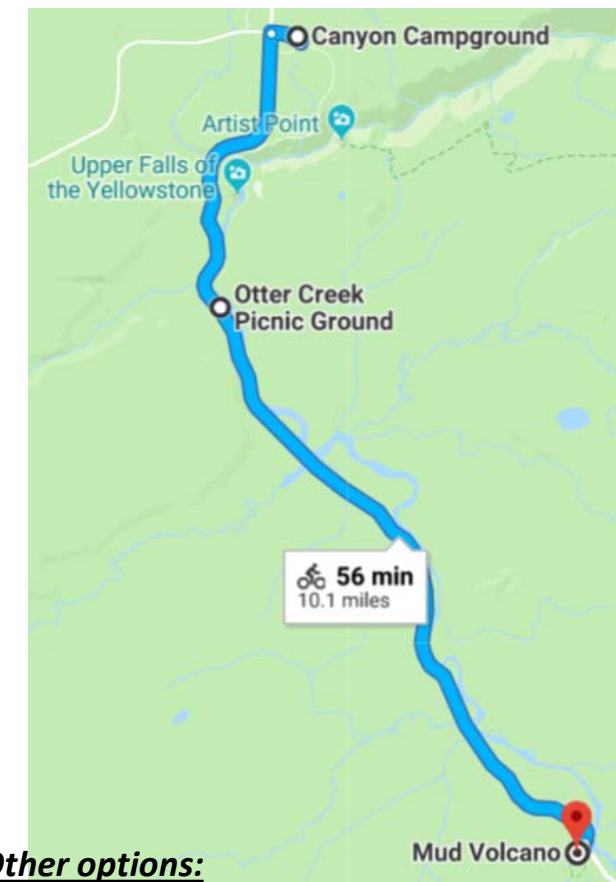
The **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone** is roughly 20 miles long, measured from the Upper Falls to the Tower Fall area. The canyon was formed by erosion as **Yellowstone River** flowed over progressively softer, less resistant rock. The Upper Falls is upstream of the Lower Falls and is 109 ft. high. It can be seen from the Brink of the Upper Falls Trail and from Uncle Tom's Trail. The Lower Falls is 308 ft. high and can be seen from Lookout Point, Red Rock Point, Artist Point, Brink of the Lower Falls Trail, and from various points on the South Rim Trail. The Lower Falls is often described as being more than twice the size of Niagara, although this only refers to its height and not the volume of water flowing over it.

Option #1: Cycle to Grand Canyon sites (18.2 miles RT – ride unloaded – 1256 ft climbing):

- Start – Canyon Campground
- Glacier Boulder
- Inspiration Point
- Grand View
- Lookout Point
- Upper Falls of the Yellowstone
- Lower Falls of the Yellowstone
- Uncle Tom’s Trail
- Artist Point
- Return to campground



Option #2: Cycle to Mud Volcano (20.2 miles RT – ride unloaded):



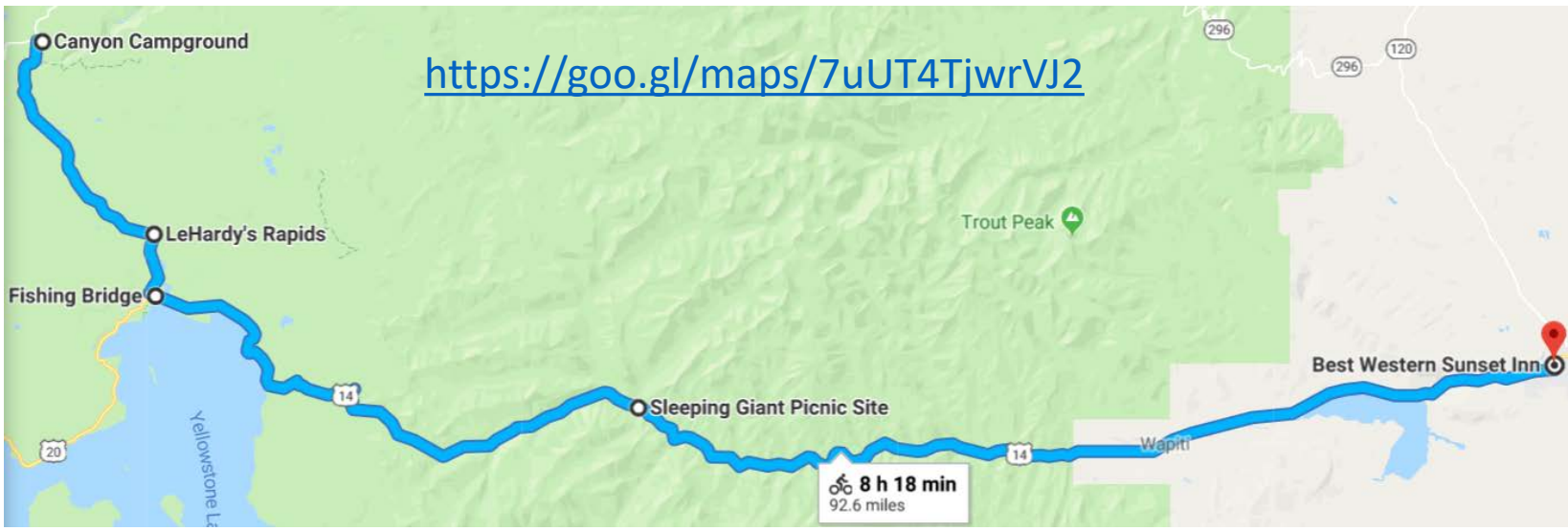
Other options:

- Hang out in camp
- Cycle to the top of Mt. Washburn (Yellowstone’s highest peak) – 28.2 mi RT (10.2 mi back to Mt. Washburn North then a 4-mile, 2000 ft climb to the top)
- Cycle the middle part of the figure 8 in Yellowstone that we missed (Canyon Village to Norris Junction and back). 24 miles RT

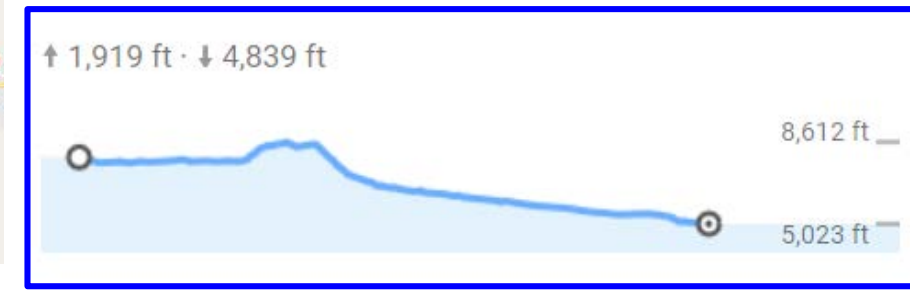
Day 11 – Sun, Aug 11 – Canyon Campground to Best Western Sunset Inn in Cody, WY - 92.6 miles, 1919 ft climbing

Option 1: Canyon Campground to Best Western Sunset Inn in Cody, WY (92.6).

This is a lot of miles, but check out the elevation profile. 1919 ft climbing and 4839 descending. A lot of downhill! This is my choice, but I am open to discussion. Adding an extra day to cut off 9 miles doesn't seem worth it.



The only other camping options between Yellowstone and Cody, WY are primitive with warnings about heavy bear activity!



Option 2: Add another day to the trip and cycle to Bridge Bay campground.

Then cycle from Bridge Bay Campground to Best Western Sunset Inn in Cody, WY (81.4 mi). Reverse of Day 1.



Appendix – a few odds and ends

Yellowstone offers 12 campgrounds with over 2,000 sites. [Yellowstone National Park Lodges](#) takes reservations for five of these campgrounds: the rest are first-come, first-served. For details and links to more information, check out the table below.



Campground	Dates	Nightly Fee	Sites
Reservable Sites			
Bridge Bay	05/18-09/23	\$25.25*	432
Canyon	05/25-09/23	\$30*	273
Fishing Bridge RV Park	05/11-09/05	\$47.75*	340
Grant Village	06/08-09/16	\$30*	430
Madison	04/27-10/14	\$25.25*	278

Yellowstone offers 12 campgrounds with over 2,000 sites. [Yellowstone National Park Lodges](#) takes reservations for five of these campgrounds: the rest are first-come, first-served. For details and links to more information, check out the table below.

Campground Details

Dates are subject to change depending on weather and other factors. Campgrounds close at 11 am on the date listed.

Campground	Dates	Nightly Fee	Sites	Elevation (ft)	Features	RV Sites**
Reservable Sites						
Bridge Bay	05/18-09/23	\$25.25*	432	7,800	A,B,F,NS,D,Gn,Gs	Check Yellowstone National Park Lodges for details & reservations
Canyon	05/25-09/23	\$30*	273	7,900	A,B,F,S/L,2S,D,Gn	
Fishing Bridge RV Park	05/11-09/05	\$47.75*	340	7,800	F,S/L,2S,D,G,H (hard-sided only)	
Grant Village	06/08-09/16	\$30*	430	7,800	A,B,F,S/L,2S,D,Gn,Gs	
Madison	04/27-10/14	\$25.25*	278	6,800	A,B,F,NS,D,Gn,Gs	

First-come, First-served Sites (see map for rec)			
Indian Creek	06/08-09/10	\$15	70
Lewis Lake	06/15-11/04	\$15	85
Mammoth	All year	\$20	85
Norris	05/25-09/24	\$20	111
Pebble Creek	06/15-09/24	\$15	27
Slough Creek	06/15-10/09	\$15	16
Tower Fall	05/25-09/24	\$15	31

When calling to make a reservation be prepared to give the dimensions of your tent (in feet) and/or the combined dimension of your RV and any other vehicles or towed vehicles. (e.g the length of your truck in addition to the length of your trailer when fully open.)

- » Fishing Bridge RV sites will accommodate a towing unit and a towed unit side by side. For example, a 35-foot site would accommodate an 18-foot truck and a 35-foot trailer (unhooked) side by side in the site. Adjust for slide outs.
- » Campground rates are per night, for **up to six people** or one family (parents with dependent children) and do not include taxes and utility fee.
- » Campground sites that will accommodate a maximum combined length of 40-feet or more are limited.

Most campsites in Yellowstone will not accommodate oversize units. Please note: If you arrive at the campground/RV Park with equipment different than that for which you have reserved, we will not be able to accommodate you. Also, please note that all rates are subject to change without notice.

Late Arrivals: For guests who may arrive outside of our usual business hours, your reserved site information will be available via a posted envelope on the Registration Building window. The next morning, please stop by the Registration Building again to complete the check-in process.

Interagency Access Pass

This offer is not valid with the Interagency Annual Pass.

If you are a holder of an Access Pass or Senior Pass (formerly known as Golden Access or Golden Age passes) you can receive a 50% discount off of established standard rates at Bridge Bay, Canyon, Grant and Madison Campgrounds. The offer is not valid for Fishing Bridge RV Park. You must show your pass at check-in to receive the discount on your site only. Otherwise you will be charged the prevailing standard rate. For more information about Interagency passes, please [visit this page on the NPS website](#).

Lone Star Geyser Road

This two-mile trail is usually hiked. However, the flat, mostly paved or gravel trail is also a perfect biking trail as it's a quick, easy ride out to the Lone Star Geyser. The trailhead for Lone Star Geyser is east of Kepler Cascades pull-out, 3.5 miles (5.6 km) southeast of Old Faithful overpass on Grand Loop Road.

Riverside Bike Trail

Just inside the park's West Entrance, bicyclists can travel on the Riverside trail located just north of and paralleling the main Grand Loop Road. This trail gives access to a section of the Madison River. This is a fairly level trail and mountain bikes are recommended.

Fountain Freight Road Bike Trail

Six miles north of Old Faithful, bikes are allowed on the Fountain Freight Road, an old dirt and gravel road now closed to autos.

Old Faithful Lower General Store to Morning Glory Pool Bike Trail

The paved trail in front of Old Faithful Lodge runs all the way to Morning Glory Pool. Take this short, (2 mi. round-trip) fairly level, paved-path and make stops to see geysers.

Natural Bridge Bike Trail

The Natural Bridge bike trail is 2.5 mi (4km) round-trip ride and begins just south of the Bridge Bay marina off the Grand Loop Road.

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/bicycling.htm>

Old Lake Road Bike Trail

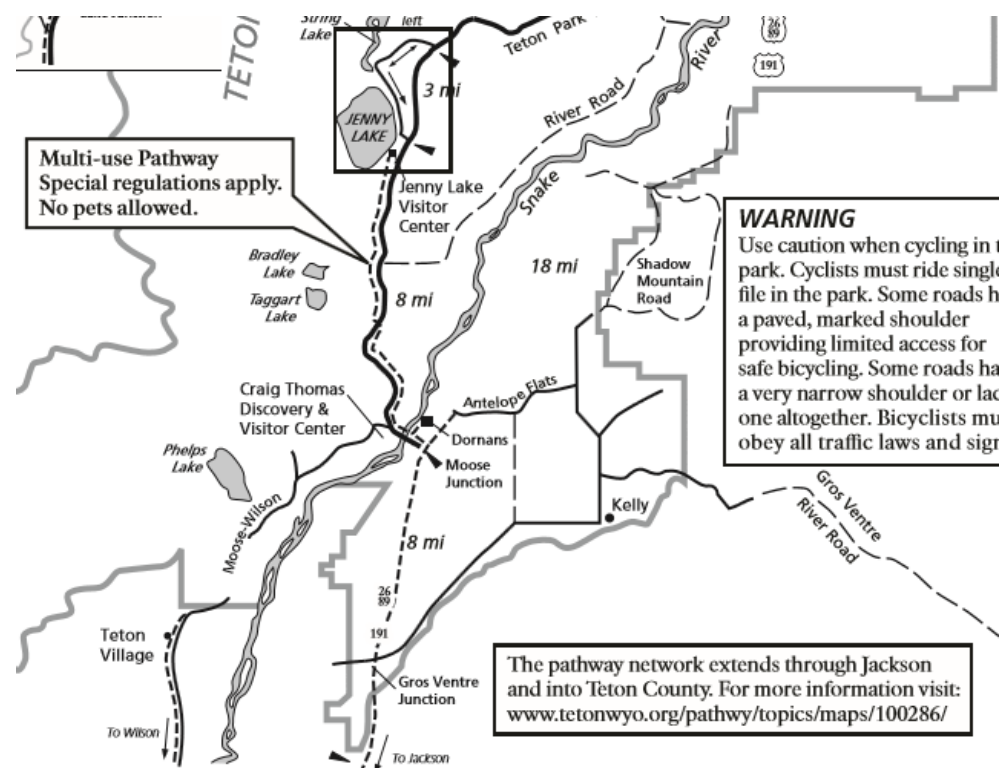
The old roadbed near the lakeshore between Lake Hotel and where the roadbed joins the main road south of Lake Junction (1 mile) has a great views of the Yellowstone Lake.

Abandoned Railroad Bed Bike Trail

An abandoned railroad bed located near the north entrance of Yellowstone makes a beautiful bike trail.

Grand Tetons bike paths

The multi-use pathway in Grand Teton National Park opened to the public in 2009, and now has been expanded from Jenny Lake 30-some miles south back to the town of Jackson. These pathways link up with existing and future pathways in the Town of Jackson, all the way out to us here in Teton Village. An incredible bridge spanning the Snake River is dedicated solely as a pathway.



Campgrounds

Campground fees change each year. Please visit the campground webpages to learn more. Some campgrounds also have a utility surcharge. Fees vary for electric hookups and full hookups. Jenny Lake and Colter Bay have walk-in sites available. All campgrounds provide modern comfort stations. Signal Mountain Campground has one site with full hook-ups and 24 sites with electric hookups. Colter Bay RV Park and Headwaters Campgrounds & RV sites do have full hookups.

The maximum length of stay is seven days per person at Jenny Lake and 14 days at all other campgrounds - no more than 30 days in the park per year (14 days at Jenny Lake). **The campgrounds operate on a first-come, first-served basis, advance reservations are not accepted.** Reservations are accepted for group camping, the Colter Bay RV Park, and the Headwaters Campground & RV Sites at Flagg Ranch.

[Colter Bay Campground](#)

[Gros Ventre Campground](#)

[Headwaters Campground and RV sites at Flagg Ranch](#)

[Jenny Lake Campground](#)

[Lizard Creek Campground](#)

[Signal Mountain Campground](#)

Teton County's North Pathway (20.3 miles) begins in Jackson and heads north to the Jenny Lake Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park. The paved pathway offers beautiful views of the iconic Grand Teton mountains, wide open ranges of sagebrush, and opportunities to see wildlife, such as elk, bison, and pronghorns. Paralleling but separated from Highway 89 and Teton Park Road, the pathway offers a safe and comfortable way to traverse the Jackson Hole valley.

The southern end of the trail passes through a National Elk Refuge. To learn more about the wildlife in the refuge, stop at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center on the north end of Jackson. In this area, you'll also find Flat Creek, a popular spot for fishing; you can pick up a fishing license at the visitor center.

For a worthwhile side trip, take the underpass that forks off from the trail and visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art (2820 Rungius Road), which offers a collection of American art dating from the 19th and 20th centuries, a Sculpture Trail, a family-friendly Children's Discovery Gallery, and a café. The building itself is a stunner, designed to match the surrounding landscape.

You'll continue on a bridge over the scenic Gros Venture River, pedal past the Jackson Hole Airport, and cross the Snake River. Midway, the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose offers displays on mountaineering, local history, and wildlife.

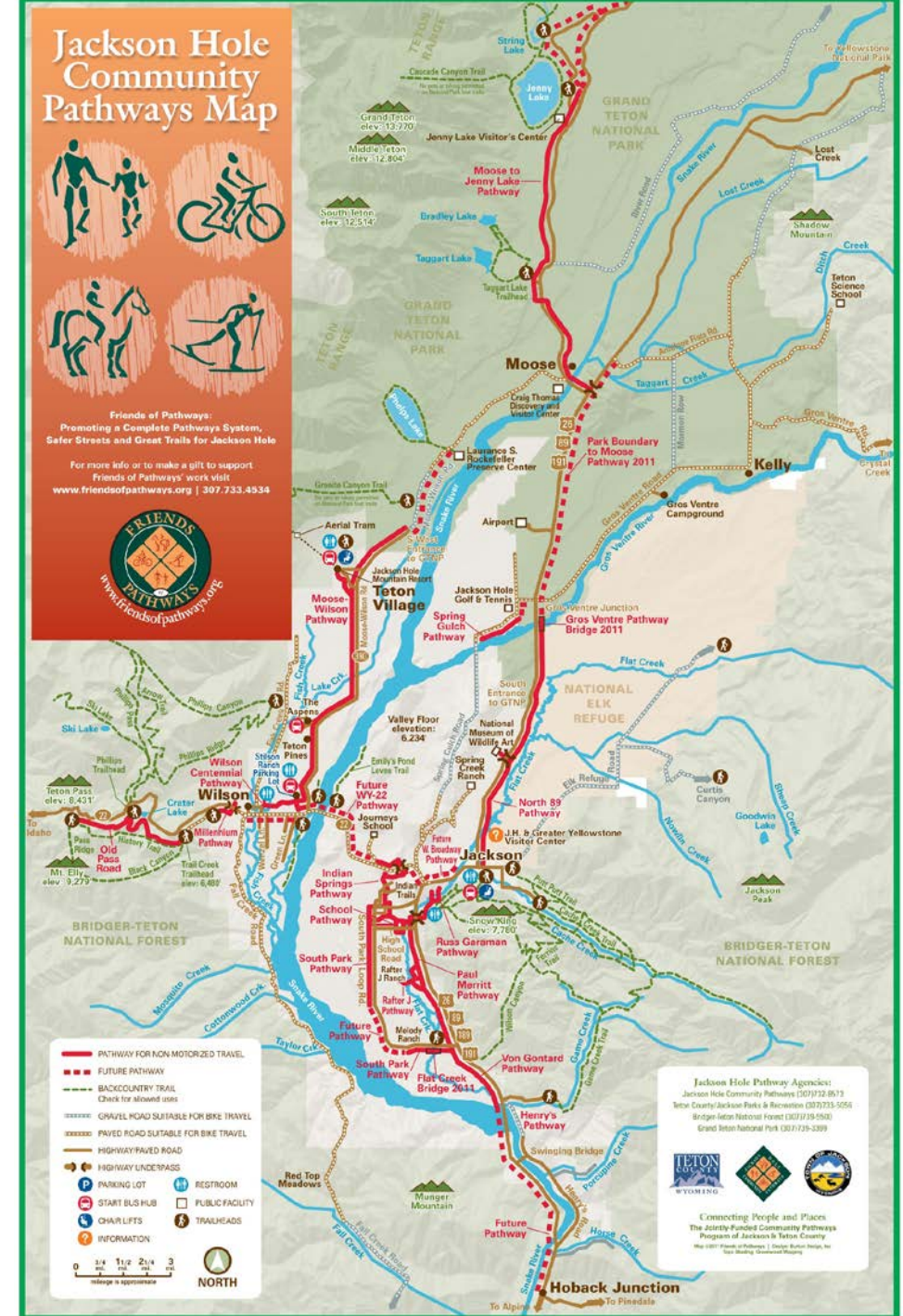
At the north end of the trail, the Jenny Lake Visitor Center provides exhibits and programming on the geology and ecology of the region. Travelers can also connect to the Jenny Lake Trail to follow the lake's eastern shoreline.

Back in Jackson, you can also enjoy the [Jackson Hole Community Pathway System](#), offering another 27 miles of trail throughout the community and beyond to Wilson and Teton Village.

Parking and Trail Access

Three visitor centers along the trail provide parking, restrooms, and drinking water (from south to north):

- Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center (532 N. Cache Street, Jackson)
- Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (1 Teton Park Road, Moose)
- Jenny Lake Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park



To make the most of your Yellowstone visit, follow these insider tips.

1. See Old Faithful in the early morning or in the evening. Almost everyone who enters the park heads to Old Faithful. For a more intimate experience, explore the Upper Geyser Basin in the early morning before the day visitors arrive or in the late afternoon after they leave.

2. Visit Yellowstone Lake in the afternoon. While the day visitors view Old Faithful and the surrounding area, head to 136-square-mile Yellowstone Lake, the largest in the park. Consider signing up for a [guided boat tour](#) or [rent a boat](#) on your own.

3. Take a hike. Don't just see Yellowstone's wonders through your car window. Walking even a ½ mile on a boardwalk or trail offers you a more complete sense of Yellowstone's features and landscape.

4. Look for wildlife at the right times. Your best chance of spotting the park's legendary bison as well as other critters is in the early morning or evening.

5. Explore Lamar Valley. Often less-visited than other areas, Lamar Valley's habitat draws wildlife and the open vistas create optimum viewing conditions. You may see elk, bear, coyote, bighorn sheep, and eagles, especially if you arrive early. Consider booking the park's early-morning [Wake Up to Wildlife Tour](#).

6. Stop at the Visitor Centers. Each facility presents educational exhibits that focus on their region of the park. While at the centers, check for the ranger programs.

7. Look at the stars. Go outside after dark. Walk 100 yards from your lodge or drive a short distance to a turnout, then park, scan the lot for wildlife and if none is present, exit your car to look up at the dazzling display of stars. With little light pollution, the night sky is a wonder.

8. Carry a flashlight at night. Since the park keeps the outdoor lighting soft, bring a flashlight for comfort, especially when traveling with young children.

9. Bring binoculars. Stay a safe distance from the wildlife. If you want to see what a bison or elk looks like up close, view them through your binoculars.

10. Pack for multiple seasons. Even in summer low temperatures at night can hover near freezing and daytime highs shoot into the 80s. Pack layers.

- Old Faithful – early in the morning
- Guided boat tour on Yellowstone Lake – late afternoon - \$98, but seems to focus on fishing. Check more later.
- Visit Lamar Valley
- Visitor Centers

Notes for Paul

Call Yellowstone and ask:

- Will the pay showers at Fishing Village RV Park be available in August 2019 (since the Park is closed in 2019 for renovation). If not, what other options?
- If hiker/biker sites are full, will touring cyclists still be given some place to camp? I found some web sites that say spots are guaranteed, but they weren't NPS sites.