



TRAVEL OUR VIRTUAL HIGHWAY WYOMING AT A GLANCE ISSUE NO. 7



THE FIRST OF SIXTY-TWO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

On March 1, 1872 President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law Yellowstone as our country's first national park. It sits atop an active volcano and is comprised of geysers, lakes, rivers, canyons, and mountains. The most noteworthy features are Old Faithful and the Grand Prismatic Spring. Old Faithful shoots up to 8.4K gals. of boiling water to heights of 106'-185' for 1.5-5 mins. *faithfully* every 60-

90 minutes. The eruption time can be calculated based on the previous eruption's duration. The Grand Prismatic Spring is the largest hot spring in the country, and 3rd in the world, not to mention one of the most beautiful. The intense blue color is the result of depth and sterility of the mineral water, and the colored bands the result of different microbial mats. **Learn more about the park at www.nps.gov.**



The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Artist Thomas Moran was invited to be a part of the geological survey team that sparked the conservation of Yellowstone. As chief artist for *Scribner's Monthly*, a national art, science, & literature magazine, he brought the tales of the scenic west to life for all Americans of the time. His images caught the attention of Pres. Grant, and the rest is history.



MOUNTAINS OF THE IMAGINATION GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

The jagged peaks of the Teton Range indeed capture the imagination. Grand Teton (the highest peak) rises 7,000' above Jackson Hole, and 850' above the second tallest. Just 10 miles from Yellowstone this park grew as conservation efforts were expanded. Its almost pristine ecosystems have flora/fauna that have existed since prehistoric times. The once threatened American bison roam freely on the refuge in the Jackson Hole valley. Their reintroduction has been so successful the herd is now managed. This valley also supports the largest bald eagle



population in the US. At 45" H. with a 7' wing span, this majestic bird represents the free and independent American spirit. **Learn more:** www.nps.gov/grte/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm



MAPS FOR APPS - Even in the backcountry, nature enthusiasts are choosing technology over tradition. Trail maps are being replaced by park apps, which offer expanded information including gps coordinates, weather, animal sightings, geyser eruption times, and so much more. Editors at **Parks & Points** compiled some of the more popular ones, with tips and tricks for new users. P & P also host Fall Essay/Spring Poetry contests, as well as publishing personal essays. Take our *K2M Virtual Highway Creative Writing Challenge!* Explore the apps and put your experience on paper. **Learn more at www.parksandpoints.com**



Yellowstone



Grand Teton



Glacier

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My family can not travel without stopping at a National or State Park. I grew up spending my summers camping at the Indiana Dunes, which has just recently become our 62nd National Park. As we were in and out of parks, I quickly realized each one had a special, and unique, feature. Now, it is a bit of a challenge for us to check off as many as we can. I just recently visited the Grand Tetons, and it is, without hesitation, my favorite thus far. The intimate scale of a rugged mountain range is beyond words.

Enjoy exploring! Becky



NATIONAL PARKS WORD SEARCH

- OLD FAITHFUL
- BISON
- ULYSSES S GRANT
- YELLOWSTONE
- GRAND TETON
- GLACIER
- GEYSER
- TRAIL MAPS
- WILDLIFE
- CONSERVATION
- MOOSE
- TROUT

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M	B	T	K	F	X	F	T	E	N	A	H	I	Y	B	S	E	L	C	R
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