

On the morning of August 3rd, we left **Glendo State Park** in Wyoming and headed in the direction of **Yellowstone National Park** also in Wyoming. We took Highway 20 through **Casper** and on to **Shoshoni**, then southwest to **Riverton**. We had hoped to spend the night at the Elks Lodge in Riverton, but their parking lot had way too many cars and nowhere near enough room for our rig. So we went to the **Wind River Indian Casino and Truck Stop** in Riverton and spent the night there. There was absolutely nothing to recommend the casino except that the parking was free.

The next morning we headed out on Highway 26 excited and eager to get to Yellowstone. You can get into Yellowstone from the North, Northeast, South, East or West entrances. Our friends, **Robert and Natalia**, had warned us that the East entrance was under construction and had nasty drop offs with no guardrails so we elected to come in from the South. The road to the South entrance also had lots of construction, but at least it wasn't dangerous. The closer you get to the park, the more interesting the scenery becomes.



Pullout on Highway 26 south of Dubois, Wyoming

Highway 26 goes through the charming town of **Dubois**. It would have been fun to spend the night there, but we were running short of time and pressed on toward the park. At Moran Junction, Highway 26 hits the main road to the South entrance. This road is 89, 191, and 287. This is gorgeous country; really gorgeous! This main road goes straight into **Grand Teton National Park**. The fee to get in is \$25 per vehicle, but if you have a Golden Age Passport, it's free. What a win! If you're old enough, you can get a lifetime passport for \$10. How's that for a killer deal? Everything in Grand Teton National Park is gorgeous. Below is **Jackson Lake**.



Jackson Lake, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

From Grand Teton National Park we went straight into Yellowstone National Park. Yep, another \$25 fee which was waived because of Chuck's Golden Age Passport. The road into the park is very wooded and so you don't really get to see very much. We headed directly to **Grant Village Campground** which was full and we begged for a place to stay. We did not have reservations, it was Friday night, and the campground was packed. Chuck had to ask for a supervisor and play his trump card. "I'm old, exhausted, and too dangerous to be driving." Works almost every time. The boss just happened to have a really nice pull through that she was saving for an emergency. She made a good call. Letting Chuck drive any further could have caused an emergency. Much to our shock, we were also able to stay Saturday night. With Chuck's Golden Age Passport, we got our campsite for \$9 a night, which is half off the regular price of \$18. There were no hookups, but we did have a picnic table. We had cell phone service thanks to our rooftop antenna and amplifier, but our computer aircard was roaming which is too expensive to use.



Our rig on Sunday morning in Grant Village, Yellowstone National Park

Well, coming into the park and staying in a campground on Friday night was unimpressive. A lot of trees, a lot of campers, and a lot of campfires. Ho hum. Was this what we drove hundreds of miles to see? Saturday morning we hopped on the motorcycle and went off to see the sights. Oh my goodness. Once you get out of the campground, Yellowstone is unbelievable. If you go, plan to stay at least a week and if possible, beat the crowds by going before Memorial Day or after Labor Day.

Yellowstone was the world's first National Park, established in 1872. Not only is it spectacular with its geysers, hot springs, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, and wildlife, but it is huge, over 2.2 million acres. The main road inside the park crosses the Continental Divide three times. (The Continental Divide is a mountain range whereby on one side all rivers flow to the Pacific ocean. On the other side, the rivers flow to the Atlantic ocean.) Yellowstone is nothing less than a national treasure and visited by people from all over the world.



Chuck and our motorcycle on the Continental Divide, elevation 8,391



Old Faithful



Grand Prismatic Spring



Lower Falls at Artist's Point



Bull moose along Fairy Creek



Bison along the road next to Yellowstone River

The park is full of bison. Hundreds of them were along the **Yellowstone River**. Many of them had calves and were grazing very close to the road. Cars were stopping and people were literally risking their butts getting much too near the mothers and their calves.



One of the many butts at risk



Yellowstone Lake



Lake House Restaurant on Yellowstone Lake in Grant Village

The Grant Village Campground is actually right on **Yellowstone Lake** and within walking distance of the campground is a very elegant upscale restaurant. The expensive restaurant seemed more than a little out of place. Clearly the tent campers weren't going there in shorts and hiking boots. But Grant Village also has a large hotel and apparently the restaurant is attracting the hotel clientele. There was also a second, informal restaurant within walking distance of the campground. It is pictured above and featured beer and wine, a pasta bar, and pizza. We had dinner there Saturday night and it was fun.

Unfortunately, we could only stay in Yellowstone two days. We had park host commitments at **Green Acres RV Park** in **Redding** and we needed to get back to California and get our new business started. We are very happy to report that we are now licensed life insurance agents in Oregon, Arizona, and California. Oops, it's no longer politically correct to be called an insurance agent. We are licensed insurance producers. We specialize in retirement planning.

Well, we have run out of time and space and we haven't even begun to cover Yellowstone. Nevertheless, we hope this brief introduction will inspire you to spend some serious time at this incredible place. Certainly, we are going to go back again.

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna