

## If You Only Have One Day in Yellowstone, Here's What We Do!

- Our family tries to be in Yellowstone Park 8:00 AM. We stop in **West Yellowstone** at a local grocery store to pick up supplies for lunch before entering through the **West Entrance!**
- Enter the Park
  - o *Make sure to get a map and newsletter from the ranger! Don't forget to ask about animal sightings—the park rangers will share information with you on where certain animals have been seen!*
- When you reach **Madison**, go North
- Stop at **Gibbon Falls**
  - o There's a rest area here where you can walk down to get a better view of the falls. A great place to stop and stretch your legs!
- Continue to **Norris**, then continue to **Mammoth**
- At **Mammoth**, take a walk on the **Travertine Terraces**, take the **Upper Terrace Drive**
  - o Stop and use the bathrooms at the **Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel** (very nice!) & check out the gift shop
  - o If you have a little extra time, check out the **Albright Visitor Center**. They recently remodeled it and you can learn about the history of the Park here. Additionally, they have taxidermy animals here so you and your kids can see the animals up close and learn some cool facts about them.
  - o In late summer, there are tons of elk here!
- Continue East to **Tower-Roosevelt**,
  - o Start watching for bears about half-way through this drive
  - o We almost always see a bear in this area around **Roosevelt**, you can choose to go a few miles toward the **LaMar Valley** to look for bears and mountain goats
- Head toward **Tower Fall**, we see mountain goats up on the cliff edges sometimes here, too
- Stop at **Tower Fall**
  - o There is a short hike here to the falls that is another good place to stop and stretch your legs
- Continue to **Canyon Village**, it's a great spot to stop for lunch!
  - o We eat at the outside picnic tables, then use the restrooms and check out the gift shop. The kids love to get stickers for their reusable water bottles (and it is a cheap souvenir!) They have a newer visitor education center here that is nice.
- Now head back West to **Norris**. This area can have a lot of buffalo because there are a lot of open fields.



- At **Norris**, head down to **Madison**—you are now retracing an area you have seen earlier in the day.
- From **Madison**, head South to **Old Faithful**.
- When you get to **Old Faithful**, find out when the geyser will erupt again. The times will be posted in the Lodge and the Inn.
  - o If you have time, you can get ice cream while you wait. Soft serve ice cream at **Old Faithful Lodge** or scoop ice cream at **Old Faithful Inn**. You can watch the geyser erupt from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony at the Inn or watch from the patio of the Lodge.
- After **Old Faithful** erupts, you can go on a hot spring walk that starts at the **Old Faithful** area, also check out **Hamilton Store**.
- Head back to **Madison**, on the way, stop at **Midway Geyser Basin** and see **Grand Prismatic Spring**. Then, continue on to **Firehole Lake Drive** and see **Great Fountain Geyser** and go to **Lower Geyser Basin** to see **Fountain Paint Pot!**



*Silex Springs at Fountain Paint Pot*

Whew! What a day. But we made it. We do this at least once every year. We like to go in late May or early June—not Memorial Day weekend though! We don't like the crowds. We also head up to the Park later in the season—end of August or in September. It helps that we only live a couple hours from the park!

Our kids love the pizza at **Ponds Lodge** at **Island Park**, and when we go up to Yellowstone, we stay at **Island Park, Idaho**, so we opt to drive the extra 30 minutes to get pizza we love! We love that it is a bar setting with televisions lining all the upper walls with extreme sports and other sporting events, so my kids are happy with amazing pizza (we think the best in Idaho!) and sports. And they have really good ice cream if you're craving that again!