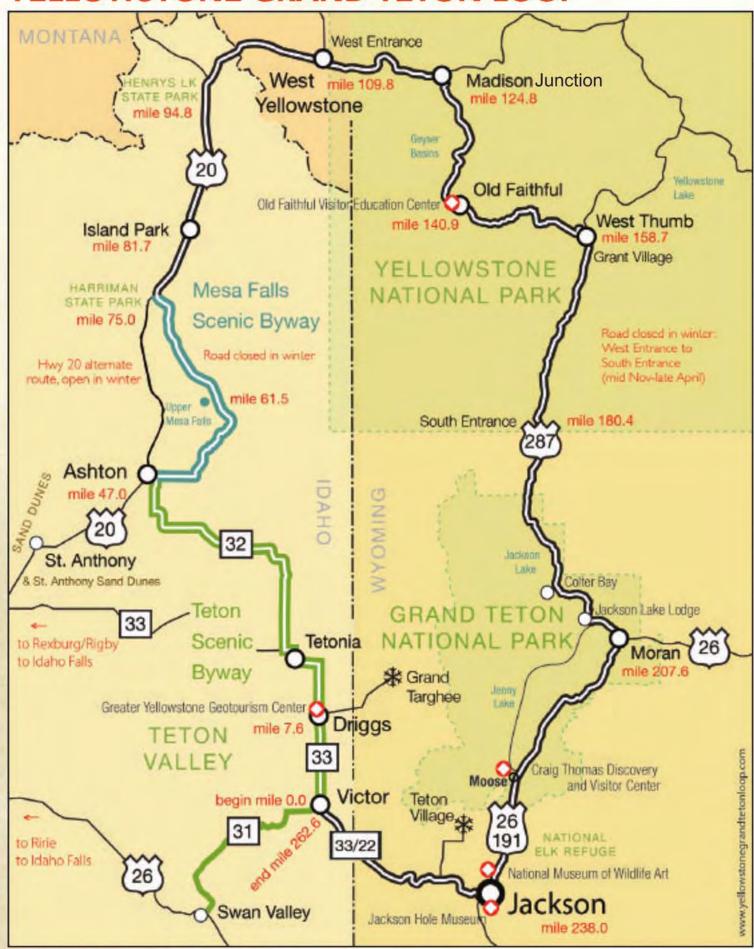


YELLOWSTONE-GRAND TETON LOOP







YELLOWSTONE-GRAND TETON LOOP

Length and roadway: 262 miles; can be done in one long day; mostly two-lane roads, driving conditions vary greatly from location to location.

Directions: From Victor, head north on ID 33 to ID 32, north on ID 32 to ID 47, west on ID 47 in Ashton; head northeast on ID 47, then northwest along USFS Road 294 to US 20; head north on US 20 to West Yellowstone (about mile 110 of loop); then into West Entrance of Yellowstone east to Madison Junction; head south to Old Faithful and east to West Thumb, then south on US 287 to Moran (in Grand Teton National Park), south on US 26 and 191 to Jackson, then west on WY 22 (which becomes ID 33) to Victor.

Highlights:

- · Encompasses much of the Teton Scenic Byway, all of the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway, the Island Park area, West Yellowstone, parts of Yellowstone National Park, the Rockefeller Parkway, Grand Teton National Park, and Teton Pass (elevation 8,431 feet).
- · Spectacular vistas and the wonders of Old Faithful, the West Thumb area, Moran, Moose, and Jackson.
- · Be prepared for traffic jams due to buffalo, Jackson commuters, and other looky-loos! (day 4).

TETON SCENIC BYWAY

Length and roadway: 69 miles; allow 2.5 hours; two-lane road, often covered in snow during the winter; Pine Creek Pass (6,800 feet) is highest point with 6 percent grades. Meets Mesa Falls Scenic Byway in Ashton. (208) 354-2312.

Directions: From Swan Valley, follow ID 31 northeast to Victor, turn north on ID 33 to ID 32, north on ID 32 to ID 47, west on ID 47 to US 20 at Ashton.

Highlights:

- · The worth-a-stop small towns of Swan Valley, Victor, Driggs, Tetonia, and Ashton.
- · Spectacular views of the Teton Range to the east alternate with ranchlands and agricultural fields rolling by, with the Big Hole Mountains on the west.
- · So many recreational opportunities per acre they can't even be counted!

Locals Tip

For directions on some of these routes (and many others in the Gem State), including GPS specs, full details on road conditions, and absolutely jaw-dropping photography, see Backcountry Roads Idaho (Caxton Press, 2008) by Lynna Howard and Leland Howard.

IF YOU HAVE TIME: SUPER SIDE TRIPS

The Yellowstone-Grand Teton Loop has been proposed for federal recognition by the U.S. Department of Transportation as either an "All-American Road" or a National Scenic Roadway, for one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. To qualify for application, "super side trips" were included along with the main loop.

These extra routes cross all three states that border Yellowstone and include: the north loop in Yellowstone, from Mammoth to Tower, Canyon Village, Norris, and back to Mammoth; the west-central loop in Yellowstone, from Madison Junction to Norris, Canyon Village, Lake Village, West Thumb, Old Faithful, and back to Madison; from Rexburg to Swan Valley via Idaho Falls; from Gardiner to Bozeman via Livingston; and from Jackson to Star Valley via Alpine.



CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

Where: On ID 33 southwest of Mud Lake (in Butte County); (208) 527-1300, nps.gov/crmo.

Highlights:

- · Visitor center, seven-mile scenic loop, hiking and camping available amid lava tubes and tunnels.
 - · Unforgettable stargazing!
 - This black-rock moonscape has virtually no equal in the U.S.
- · Surprising variety of wildlife, with more than 660 types of plants and more than 280 animal species thriving in a rugged environment.
- · NASA used the dusty surfaces at Craters to train astronauts for the real lunar visits.